The United Nations

DISARMAMENT YEARBOOK

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Volume **49**

United Nations

COVER DESIGN: The 2024 Pact for the Future recognized youth participation as critical to international peace and security. **Top**: Young Latin American leaders gather in Lima in December to build a region free of armed violence through GenerAcción Paz, a collaboration between the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Programme. **Bottom**: Participants in the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons during their inaugural study visit to Japan in August.

TIMELINE PHOTOS:

Secretary-General António Guterres attends the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on 26 February to deliver his statement during the high-level segment.

The Security Council unanimously adopts resolution 1540 (2004) on 28 April 2004, deciding that all States would establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.

Maritza Chan Valverde, President of the fourth Review Conference on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, briefs reporters on 19 June in New York.

Participants of the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons showcase their traditional Japanese calligraphy with peace messages during their study visit to Hiroshima in August.

Norwegian People's Aid representatives pose on the way to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's fifth Review Conference venue in Siem Reap, Cambodia, during a march for a mine-free world on 24 November. Over 3,000 people, including deminers, joined the march.

Herman Phleger, United States Representative at the Diplomatic Conference in Washington, D.C., signs the Antarctic Treaty on 1 December 1959. Paul C. Daniels, Alternate United States Representative, looks on (standing), and Secretary of State Christian A. Herter is seated at the back.

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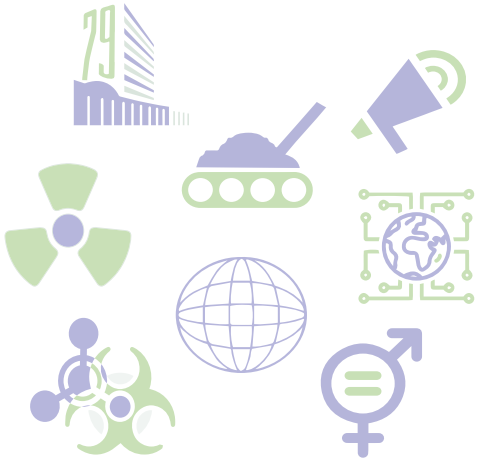
GUIDE to the user



The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs publishes the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* as a **concise reference tool** for diplomats, researchers, students and the general public on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues under consideration by the international community.

The Office releases the *Yearbook* in two versions: a **preview edition** providing a concise, accessible overview; and a **full edition** offering comprehensive coverage of the year's activities. Both editions are released within a year of the period they cover — the preview edition launches in **July** and the full edition in **September.** Digital versions (PDF and website formats) are available at https://yearbook.unoda.org, while print copies can be purchased at https://shop.un.org.

The *Yearbook* is **divided into the main multilateral issues** under consideration throughout the year. It includes **developments and trends**, a convenient issue-oriented **timeline** and explanatory **graphics and charts**. The annex on **resolutions, status of treaties and other resources** is a one-stop shop for accessing recommended databases, publications and information materials from the year. The Disarmament Resolutions and Decisions Database contains the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, as well as their sponsors, voting patterns and other related information. The Disarmament Treaties Database provides the status of multilateral regulation and disarmament

agreements. The information in those databases was formerly published each year within the *Yearbook*; producing it in database form offers *Yearbook* users a more interactive experience and easier access to data from previous years. Both databases have filters for specific years.

The *Yearbook* website is user-friendly — accessible on **mobile devices** and available in **multiple languages** through third-party machine translation. Official translations in the six official languages of the United Nations will be uploaded as they become available.

Because much of the background information is condensed, consulting **previous editions** for expanded historical knowledge will be helpful.

Websites of United Nations departments and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations are referenced as **hyperlinks in the online version** of the *Yearbook*.

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Hyperlinks to these documents are included in the online version of the *Yearbook*. Alternatively, they can be accessed, in the official languages of the United Nations, from https://documents.un.org.

Specific disarmament-related documents are also available from the **disarmament reference collection** at https://library.unoda.org.

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We must ask ourselves:
Can succeeding generations sustain what was forged in the crucible of shared suffering? The answer to this question may well determine whether the founding purpose of the United Nations is reinvigorated as a living commitment or becomes an artefact of history.

Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

”

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the 2024 *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*. For nearly five decades, this publication has provided an objective record of developments in multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Now in its forty-ninth volume, the *Yearbook* continues its vital mission to document efforts by the United Nations, Member States and other stakeholders to advance international peace and security through disarmament initiatives and arms control measures. Its enhanced preview edition, issued earlier in the year, equips policymakers and the public with a timely and authoritative overview of the most salient developments in this field.

As we reflect on the past year, we face a sobering truth: the international security architecture, built painstakingly over decades, now faces extraordinary strain. The proliferation of active conflicts, the erosion of established arms control frameworks and unprecedented military spending all signal a regression in our collective commitment to peace and security. The rapidly accelerating pace of these challenges starkly contrasts with the deliberate tempo of diplomatic processes — a fundamental misalignment portending yet more peril for people and the planet.

It is in this context that the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Nihon Hidankyo — the Japanese Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations — a poignant recognition of the tireless efforts of atomic bomb survivors to bear witness to the horrors of nuclear weapons and to advocate for their abolition. This award arrives at a watershed moment, as the youngest hibakusha are now in their 80s, their lives having paralleled the existence of our Organization.

Indeed, both the United Nations and the hibakusha emerged from the cataclysm of the Second World War. For nearly eight decades, they have carried forward a shared mission: to spare our children and descendants from the ravages of war and the existential threat of nuclear annihilation.

As we witness the gradual passing of this generation of survivors — both the hibakusha and all those who withstood the global conflict — we confront not only the loss of their irreplaceable testimony, but also the fading of the firsthand insight that birthed our multilateral institutions. We must ask ourselves: Can succeeding generations sustain what was forged in the crucible of shared suffering? The answer to this question may well determine whether the founding purpose of the United Nations is reinvigorated as a living commitment or becomes an artefact of history.

It is with this sobering responsibility in mind that the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued its essential work throughout 2024. Most notably, the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons was launched with the explicit aim of carrying forward the legacy of the hibakusha, helping the wisdom borne of their experiences to endure. This comprehensive

learning and professional development programme reached young advocates in 63 countries in 2024, marking one of our broadest and most direct efforts to preserve the visceral understanding that has animated our founding purpose.

The year also witnessed progress on traditional and emerging security threats. In June, Member States agreed to establish an open-ended technical expert group to tackle rapidly advancing technologies in the small-arms landscape — from polymer weapons that defy standard tracing to 3D-printed firearms circumventing existing regulatory frameworks — a crucial adaptation of our collective security mechanisms to innovation's quickening pace. On cybersecurity, States forged new consensus through an open-ended working group on information and communications technologies, unpacking common understandings around threats both current and anticipated, laying groundwork for greater trust through new confidence-building measures, and charting the architecture for a future permanent mechanism in this increasingly vital domain. These and other developments support the global commitments enshrined in the **Pact for the Future**, which world leaders adopted in September 2024 — particularly actions 25 through 27, in which Member States reaffirmed their resolve to work together in tackling long-standing and novel security challenges.

The *Yearbook* itself represents our commitment to documenting these ongoing efforts — creating a record that connects our present work to both our founding purpose and the tests that lie ahead. Even as we acknowledge the headwinds of this moment, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the vision that gave birth to both this Organization and the disarmament movement: a world free from the scourge of war and all its sorrows.

Izumi Nakamitsu
Under-Secretary-General
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
May 2025

Secretary-General António Guterres (at podium and on screens) addresses the opening of Summit of the Future in New York on 21 September. At the Summit, world leaders adopted the **Pact for the Future** and its annexes: the "Global Digital Compact" and the "Declaration on Future Generations". This historic agreement is the culmination of years of inclusive dialogue and collaboration aimed at modernizing international cooperation to address today's realities and prepare for tomorrow's challenges. (Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe)

Highlights, 2024

MULTILATERAL disarmament timeline

January

22 Jan.–**28** Mar.

Conference on Disarmament, 1st session

March

21 Mar.

15th anniversary: entry into force of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

April

1-19 Apr.

Disarmament Commission session

28 Apr.

20th anniversary: adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

May

6 May

10th anniversary: adoption of the Protocol to the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

13 May-**28** June

Conference on Disarmament, 2nd session

June

7 June

25th anniversary: adoption of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions

18-28 June

Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

July

11 July

40th anniversary: entry into force of the Moon Treaty

15 July

15th anniversary: entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty

August

29 July–**13** Sept.

Conference on Disarmament, 3rd session

September

5 Sept.

First Youth Leader Fund programme participants adopt DeclarACTION

18 Sept.

25th anniversary: entry into force of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

October

7 Oct.-**8** Nov.

Seventy-ninth session of the First Committee of the General Assembly

December

1 Dec.

65th anniversary: adoption of the Antarctic Treaty

24 Dec.

10th anniversary: entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty

2024

DEVELOPMENTS and trends

“

Disarmament and non-proliferation are two sides of the same coin. Progress in one spurs progress in the other.

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

”

1 Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

On 10 December, Terumi Tanaka, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Co-Chair of Nihon Hidankyo, delivers remarks in Oslo upon accepting the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the historic grass-roots movement of atomic bomb survivors. (Credit: ICAN | Kaspar Fosser)

1 NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT and non-proliferation

Following the pattern of recent years, 2024 continued to see acutely elevated nuclear risk, with geopolitical tensions further dividing States, and progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation appearing ever more elusive. References in international discourse to a "nuclear tipping point" captured an atmosphere of mounting distrust, with prior commitments going unfulfilled or facing further backsliding.

In one positive development, Member States formally recommitted in the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1) to "the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons", demonstrating that the vast majority of the international community still held that aspiration as its guiding vision.

However, the Pact stood as one of the few bright spots in this field. The ongoing war in Ukraine continued to be characterized by nuclear rhetoric and threats. In an apparent response to increased support to Ukraine by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin

signed a new nuclear doctrine in November entitled "Fundamentals of State Policy of the Russian Federation on Nuclear Deterrence". The doctrine signalled that increased NATO State engagement, especially through troop presence, or support for an attack on Russian territory by a non-nuclear-weapon State could trigger a nuclear response. Notably, the doctrine's section on "principles of nuclear deterrence" excluded a previous provision on "compliance with international obligations in the field of arms control".

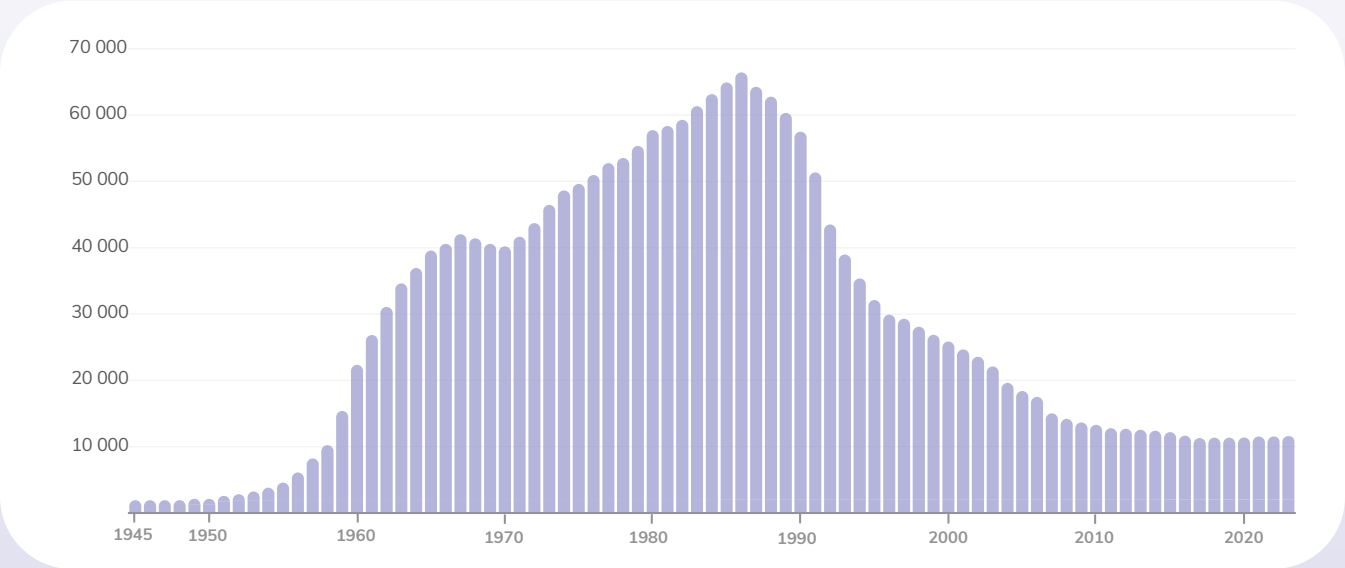
As a direct result of the ongoing war, the P5 Process, intended to bring the five nuclear-weapon States together to discuss their unique responsibilities, did not hold any ministerial-level meetings in 2024. While working-level meetings chaired by the Russian Federation did take place, they produced no concrete outcomes.

The invasion of Ukraine continued to raise concerns about the safety and security of nuclear power plants in armed conflict, particularly the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant, where the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to maintain its presence established in September 2022.

As relationships between nuclear-weapon States deteriorated, fears grew about a return to dangerous cold war practices. Former and current officials in those States issued pronouncements on the need to resume nuclear testing, and the ongoing qualitative nuclear arms race threatened to become quantitative for the first time since the 1980s. The lack of measures to prevent nuclear-weapon use, combined with the erosion of the nuclear arms control regime, stoked fears about accidental use, miscalculation and escalation. Speaking on the 2024 International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Figure 1.1

Nuclear arsenals of the world



For over 50 years, but especially since the end of the cold war, the United States and the Russian Federation (formerly the Soviet Union) have engaged in a series of bilateral arms control measures that have drastically reduced their strategic nuclear arsenals from a peak of around 60,000. The most recent of those measures, the New START Treaty, limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons to 1,550 per State. The Treaty is scheduled to expire on 4 February 2026; if it expires without a successor or is not extended, it will be the first time since the 1970s that the strategic arsenals of the United States and the Russian Federation have not been constrained.

Data source: *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists'* Nuclear Notebook, written by Hans M. Kristensen, Matt Korda, and Eliana Johns, Federation of American Scientists.

(26 September), the Secretary-General warned that "instead of dialogue and diplomacy being deployed to end the nuclear threat, another nuclear arms race is taking shape, and sabre-rattling is re-emerging as a tactic of coercion".

The prospect of an unprecedented three-way arms race gained further momentum in 2024. China faced mounting pressure to increase transparency and accountability around its nuclear arsenal amid widespread reports of a rapid quantitative expansion, which China continued to deny. The United States announced it would adapt its approach to arms control and non-proliferation for a new era "marked by evolving proliferation risks and rapid changes in technology". This policy shift included preparing to compete with two nuclear peers for the first time, while reaffirming a determination to modernize both the country's nuclear triad[1] and nuclear command, control and communications systems to "sustain, and if necessary, enhance [its] capabilities and posture".

Regional tensions in 2024 continued to accelerate proliferation risks. Prospects for reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action became increasingly remote, with the Islamic Republic of Iran further advancing its nuclear programme while continuing not to provide the cooperation required by the IAEA. In November, the IAEA Board of Governors adopted a resolution requesting an updated assessment for March 2025 (GOV/2024/68), raising the likelihood of snapback sanctions under Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). Amid widening conflict with Israel, Iranian officials warned that their country could revisit its nuclear weapons policy and, if sanctions were reimposed, withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Nevertheless, talks held between France, Germany and the United Kingdom and the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva in November indicated continued interest in diplomatic solutions.

Nuclear risk in North-East Asia continued to rise throughout 2024, with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's ongoing advancement of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. During the year, the country test-fired 45 ballistic missiles of various ranges in contravention of the relevant Security Council resolutions — an increase since 2023, which had seen fewer than half of the 70 launches conducted in 2022. The missile activities in 2024 included launches of a new solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile, three launches of intermediate-range ballistic missiles tipped with hypersonic glide vehicles and multiple independently targetable warheads, and several short-range ballistic missiles, including some fired in a large salvo. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea also undertook other activities in line with its 2021 five-year military development plan.

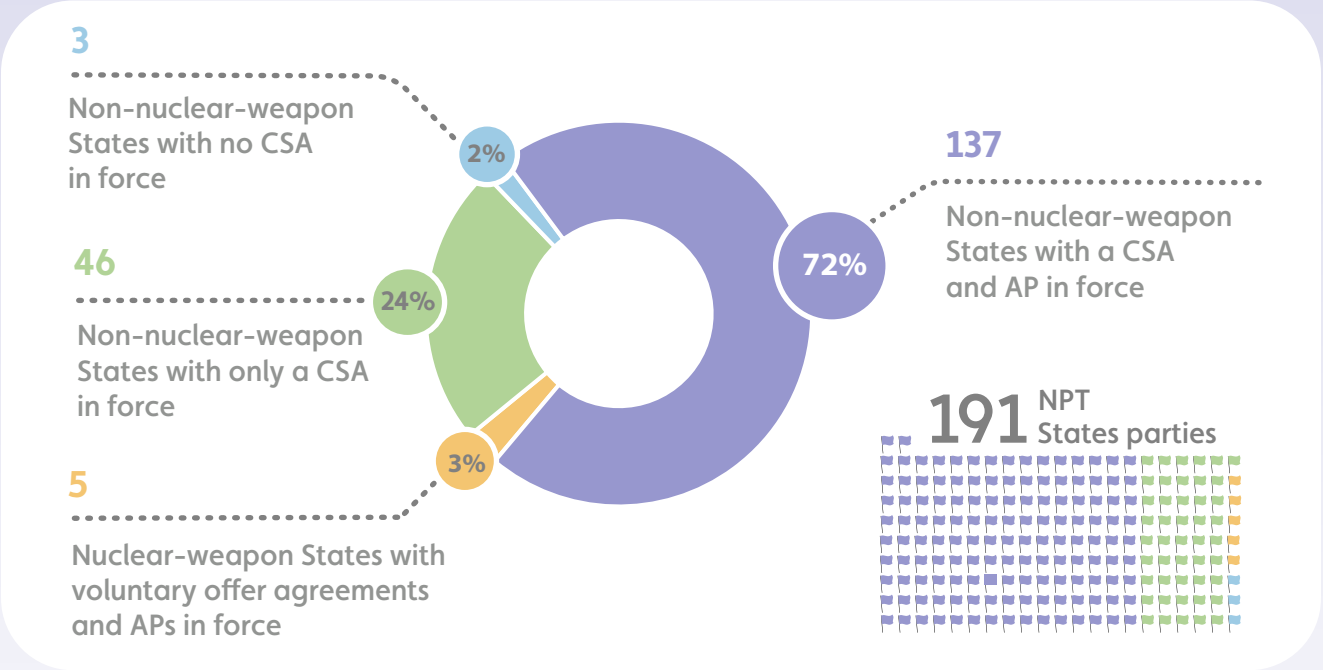
The fifth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction took place in New York in November, providing a platform for the participating States to reflect on past and future activities of the Conference and its working committee. Those States welcomed the procedural and substantive achievements made to date, acknowledging the success of their approach in making incremental and systematic substantive progress towards the development of a draft legally binding instrument.

All these issues came into sharp focus at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference, held from 22 July to 2 August. Regional conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere were discussed primarily in the context of nuclear coercion and threats. The issue of transparency and accountability of nuclear-weapon States under the Treaty

[1] The "nuclear triad" refers to a military force structure of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and strategic bombers with nuclear bombs and missiles.

Figure 1.2

Status of safeguards agreements with States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as at 31 December 2024



Abbreviations: AP – additional protocol; CSA – comprehensive safeguards agreement.

The figure above summarizes the status of safeguards agreements and additional protocols in force with the IAEA and NPT States parties as at 31 December 2024. Safeguards agreements were in force with 188 NPT States parties, of which 183 are non-nuclear-weapon States with comprehensive safeguards agreements and five are nuclear-weapon States with voluntary offer agreements. Additional protocols were in force with 142 NPT States parties, including 137 States with comprehensive safeguards agreements and the five States with voluntary offer agreements. There were three NPT non-nuclear-weapon States that had not yet brought into force comprehensive safeguards agreements: Equatorial Guinea, Guinea and Somalia.

Data source: International Atomic Energy Agency.

remained a central concern, with non-nuclear-weapon States expressing growing frustration over the lack of tangible progress on nuclear disarmament and mounting scepticism about nuclear-weapon States' commitment to their disarmament obligations.

States still demonstrated their commitment to working within the Treaty's framework by putting forward various proposals to make concrete progress, although nuclear-weapon States received them with varying degrees of enthusiasm. The issue of "nuclear sharing" and extended deterrence arrangements gained prominence, exposing divisions among non-nuclear-weapon States. Many challenged the compatibility of such arrangements with the spirit — if not the letter — of the NPT, while criticizing non-nuclear-weapon States benefiting from these arrangements. Yet, despite these tensions, States parties showed continued willingness to explore new ideas for improving the review process.

In addition, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons expanded its membership with ratifications by Indonesia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Solomon Islands. Informal working groups and facilitators advanced States parties' implementation efforts through the Treaty's intersessional process, which included the first informal consultations

Citizens of Oslo participate in a torchlight procession on 10 December in honour of Nihon Hidankyo's receipt of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. Nihon Hidankyo is a grass-roots organization of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (Credit: ICAN | Kaspar Fosser)

on the security concerns of States parties, coordinated by Austria. The Treaty's Scientific Advisory Group continued its substantive work throughout 2024, including by establishing a scientific network to support the Treaty, which held an inaugural meeting in December.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty also gained ratifications, with Papua New Guinea becoming the 178th State party in March. As concerns grew about the potential resumption of nuclear testing, States used the International Day Against Nuclear Tests (29 August) to reaffirm their support not only for the Treaty itself but for the broader norm against nuclear testing, emphasizing their determination to preserve that norm. The global focus on environmental and human impacts of past nuclear testing also continued to grow.

The General Assembly demonstrated ongoing commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by adopting several new mandates. By resolution 79/238, it established an independent Scientific Panel on the Effects of Nuclear War to examine the physical effects and societal consequences of nuclear war at local, regional and planetary scales. The Panel would

conduct its work throughout 2025 and 2026, reporting to the General Assembly's eighty-second session, in 2027. Through resolution 79/241, the Assembly also mandated the first comprehensive study on nuclear-weapon-free zones in nearly 50 years, with findings to be submitted at the body's eighty-first session, in 2026.

Meanwhile, following the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues, the General Assembly asked the Secretary-General, through resolution 79/240, to seek Member States' written views on establishing a group of scientific and technical experts on nuclear disarmament verification within the United Nations. The Assembly also agreed to hold a one-day symposium in 2026 on victim assistance and environmental remediation in the context of the second resolution on addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons (resolution 79/60). These new mandates, emerging despite broader challenges to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, demonstrated that progress remained possible, however daunting the prospect.

“

I am heartened that through the Pact for the Future, States have committed to pursue a world free from chemical and biological weapons and ensure that those responsible for any use of these weapons are identified and held accountable.

Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

”

2 Biological and chemical weapons

Participants in the Youth for Biosecurity Fellowship programme attend a study visit in Geneva. Their trip from 15 to 23 August coincided with the fourth session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention.

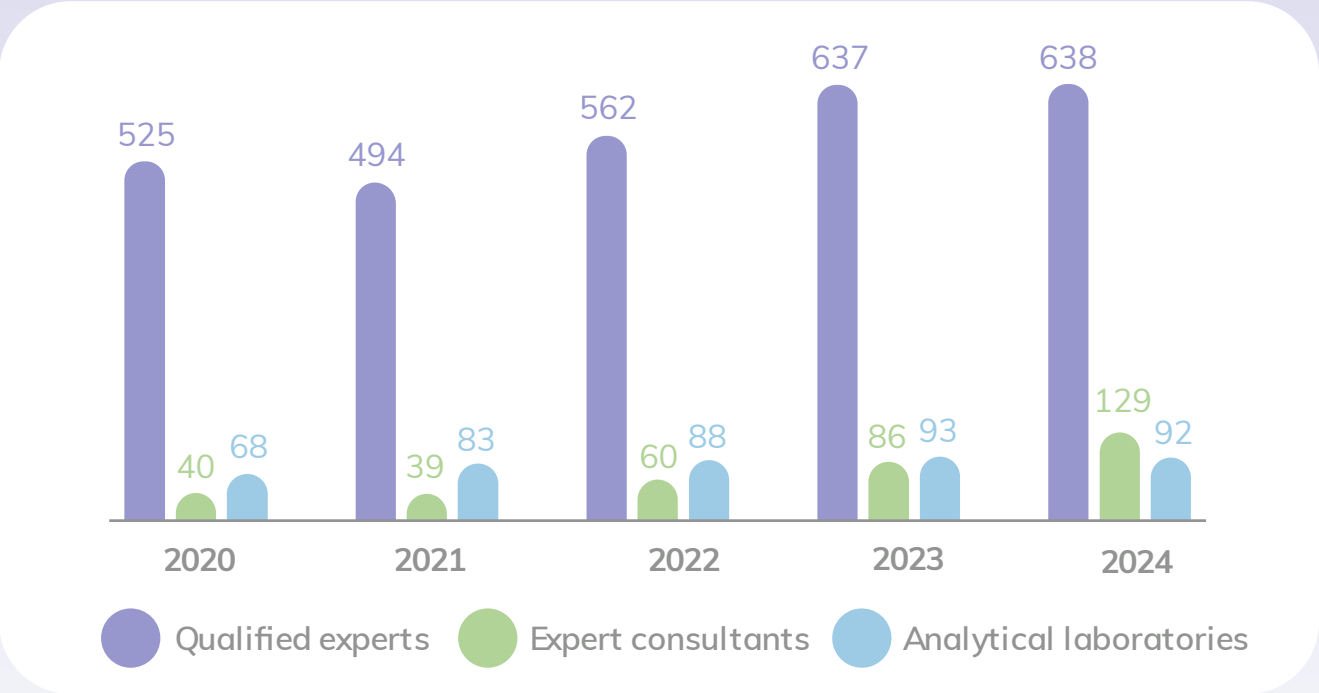
2 BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL weapons

In 2024, the Secretary-General continued to emphasize that the use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances is intolerable and that impunity for their use is equally unacceptable. The Secretary-General also continued to urge States to reaffirm their commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and called for unity in the Security Council to identify and hold accountable those who have dared to use such weapons. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to support the Secretary-General's good offices in furthering the implementation of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) on the elimination of the chemical weapons programme in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Office also continued to work with members of the Security Council in their efforts to build unity, restore cooperation and ensure adherence to the global norm against chemical weapons.

The year also witnessed a continued international focus on the security implications of emerging technologies in the biological sphere. In adopting the Pact for the Future in September, Member States emphasized the need to address emerging and evolving

Figure 2

Secretary-General's Mechanism: number of nominated qualified experts, expert consultants and analytical laboratories (2020–2024)



In 2024, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued outreach activities to encourage nominations of relevant experts and laboratories to the roster for the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons. Outreach has been an ongoing priority for the Office for Disarmament Affairs and, since 2020, has led to an increase in nominations from Member States across all three categories of the roster.

biological risks through improved anticipation, prevention, coordination and preparedness processes. Furthermore, they committed to identify, examine and develop effective measures, including possible legally binding measures, to strengthen and institutionalize international norms and instruments against the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, retention and use of biological agents and toxins as weapons.

It was in this context that the international community pushed ahead with various initiatives aimed at bolstering the Biological Weapons Convention, including through the dedicated Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention. During the fourth and fifth sessions of the Working Group in Geneva, States parties discussed ways to identify, examine and develop specific and effective measures, including possible legally binding measures, and to make recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention. In line with the Group's mandate from the ninth Review Conference in 2022, its deliberations addressed the following: (a) international cooperation and assistance under article X; (b) scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention; (c) confidence-building and transparency; (d) compliance and verification; (e) national implementation of the Convention; (f) assistance, response and preparedness under article VII; and (g) organizational, institutional and financial arrangements.

Despite intensive negotiations before and during the Group's fifth session in December, however, consensus eluded States parties on a recommendation for establishing two new mechanisms within the Convention's framework, focused respectively on scientific and technological review and on facilitating international cooperation and assistance under article X. One State party objected to a proposal by the Chair to recommend that States parties convene a special conference specifically tasked with formally establishing the mechanisms.

From March to August, the Youth for Biosecurity Fellowship programme hosted its second cohort, comprising 20 young leaders in the biological sciences from 17 States in the global South. The participants took part in a series of tailored, expert-led online learning sessions and collaborative research that culminated in a 10-day study visit to Geneva to observe the fourth session of the Working Group. Building on the momentum of the first edition, the Fellowship received a significant increase in applications, with more than 2,400 applicants from over 100 countries — a rise of more than 200 per cent compared with the previous year.

Qualified experts for the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons or Toxin Weapons participate in a simulated decontamination exercise for scenarios such as sampling suspected chemical weapons. The activity was part of a skills training course conducted in Lisbon from 21 to 24 May.

“

While the threat of weapons of mass destruction looms large, we continue to see the devastating impact of conventional arms across regions. From fuelling conflict and organized crime, to facilitating sexual and gender-based violence, the consequences of unregulated and illicit conventional weapons are felt every day.

Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

”

3 Conventional weapons

Police and military personnel in Barbados destroy ammunition during a five-day exercise from 27 to 31 May. The Government carried out the destruction in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the United States Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

3 CONVENTIONAL weapons

In 2024, both rising military expenditure and the ongoing flow of weapons and ammunition into armed conflicts, including through illicit trade, continued to stoke deep concerns about potential escalations in violence and risks of diversion to unauthorized recipients. The trade in conventional weapons drove and sustained geopolitical conflict and instability in many regions, most notably in Ukraine, Gaza, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Myanmar and the Syrian Arab Republic. Entrenched conflicts and geopolitical tensions placed growing pressure on treaties and norms governing conventional arms.

The year saw intense fighting and unprecedented civilian suffering in the Middle East. Political and public debates on arms and ammunition exports intensified globally, with Israel's conduct of hostilities across the region generating mounting scrutiny of its weapons suppliers. Continued arms transfers to Israel, especially from Western States,

amplified accusations of double standards in the application of humanitarian norms within arms trade regulatory frameworks, leading to increased calls for stronger accountability and transparency. Even as ceasefire negotiations brought new hope to civilians in Gaza for an end to the fighting and to Israeli hostages for their swift release, the future of the region remained fraught with uncertainty.

As the war in Ukraine persisted into another year, combat operations escalated and evolved in nature, with numerous States continuing to provide military assistance and transfers of arms and ammunition to both sides. The year was marked by significant shifts in battlefield dynamics, including the reported **deployment of troops to Kursk from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea** in support of the Russian Federation's invasion, and Ukraine's use of long-range missiles supplied by the United States and others to strike targets in Russian territory. The humanitarian situation for civilians in Ukraine remained dire, with deliberate targeting of civilian and energy infrastructure intensifying alongside the widespread deployment of armed uncrewed aerial vehicles.

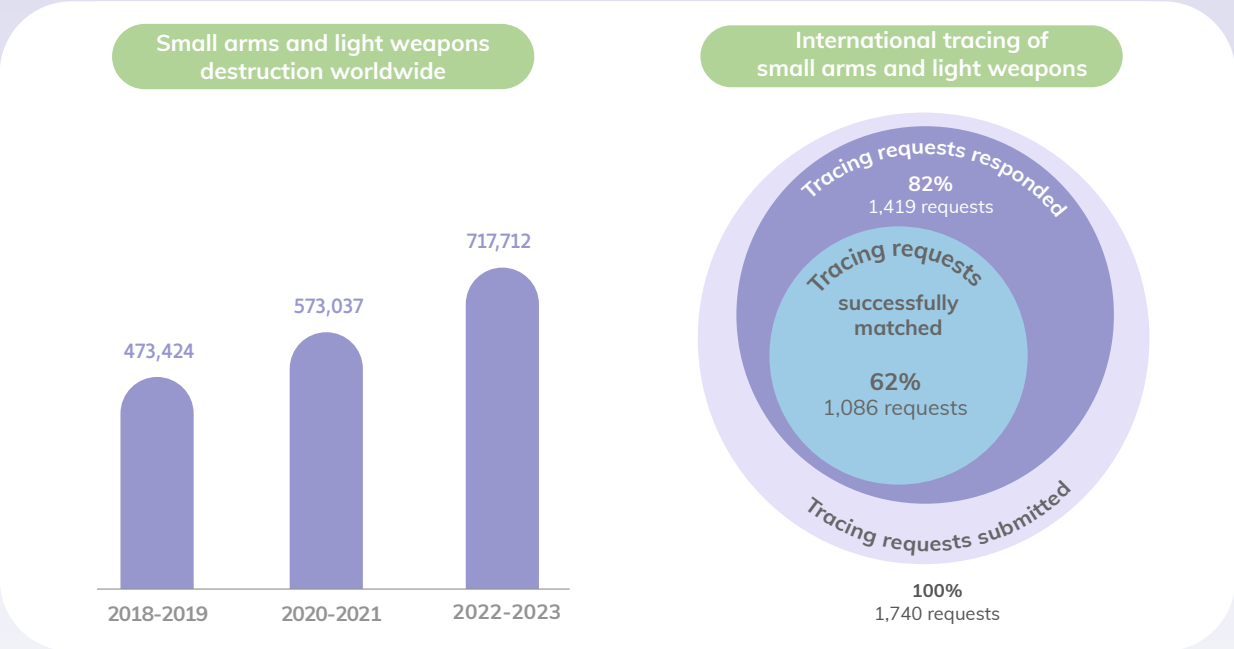
Numerous other countries experienced severe crises fuelled by armed conflict. The Sudan endured one of the most challenging periods in its modern history, as the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces plunged the nation deeper into turmoil (A/HRC/57/23). Haiti remained in the grip of unrelenting gang violence, which **claimed at least 5,601 lives** in 2024 alone. The Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to be ensnared in cycles of conflict that had killed and displaced millions of people over decades. Four years after the military coup in Myanmar, the death toll in the thousands continued to rise, with millions more suffering displacement and insecurity. Meanwhile, significant military developments in the Syrian Arab Republic led to the establishment of a new interim governing authority after 14 years of devastating war, potentially creating a historic opportunity to build peace.

Reflecting faith in diplomacy and the multilateral disarmament system, States agreed to better address the role of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the risks of diversion to unauthorized recipients in aggravating conflict and violence. At the fourth Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, countries reached a landmark agreement to establish an open-ended technical expert group tasked with addressing emerging technological opportunities to eradicate illicit arms and challenges, including polymer and modular weapons, 3D printing, and associated difficulties in weapons tracing (A/CONF.192/2024/RC/3, annex). Meanwhile, the Security Council continued to recognize the detrimental impact of small arms and light weapons in a range of country-specific and thematic discussions.

With the adoption of the **Pact for the Future** in September 2024, Member States recognized the "interdependence of international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights". Voicing concern about the potential impact that the global increase in military expenditure could have on investments in sustainable development and sustaining peace, they tasked the Secretary-General to "provide analysis on the impact of the global increase in military expenditure on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by the end of the seventy-ninth session". States further acknowledged the critical importance of addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and ammunition as an integral element of conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

Figure 3.1

Trends in small arms and light weapons



Left: The global pace of reported small arms and light weapons destruction increased from 2018 to 2023, with 717,712 weapons destroyed in the 2022–2023 biennium alone. Destruction terminates the life cycles of weapons, making it an effective method of reducing their number on the illicit market. The entire six-year period saw more than 1,763,000 weapons destroyed, including weapons collected in previous years and obsolete weapons from national stockpiles.

Data source: National reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The data cover the two prior years as reported by 96 countries in 2020, 90 countries in 2022, and 100 countries in 2024.

Right: International tracing helps investigators track the origin of illicit small arms and light weapons and identify where they were diverted from legal channels. Under the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, States work together by sharing manufacturing records, transfer documentation and licensing data through national inquiries and international and regional databases. Among 100 national reports submitted in 2024 (covering 2022–2023), 21 States collected data on international tracing requests. They recorded a total of 1,740 tracing requests submitted in that period, with 1,419 (82 per cent) receiving responses and 1,086 matching to successfully traced weapons (62 per cent). This high success rate was primarily driven by efficient tracing operations in Jamaica and Burkina Faso.

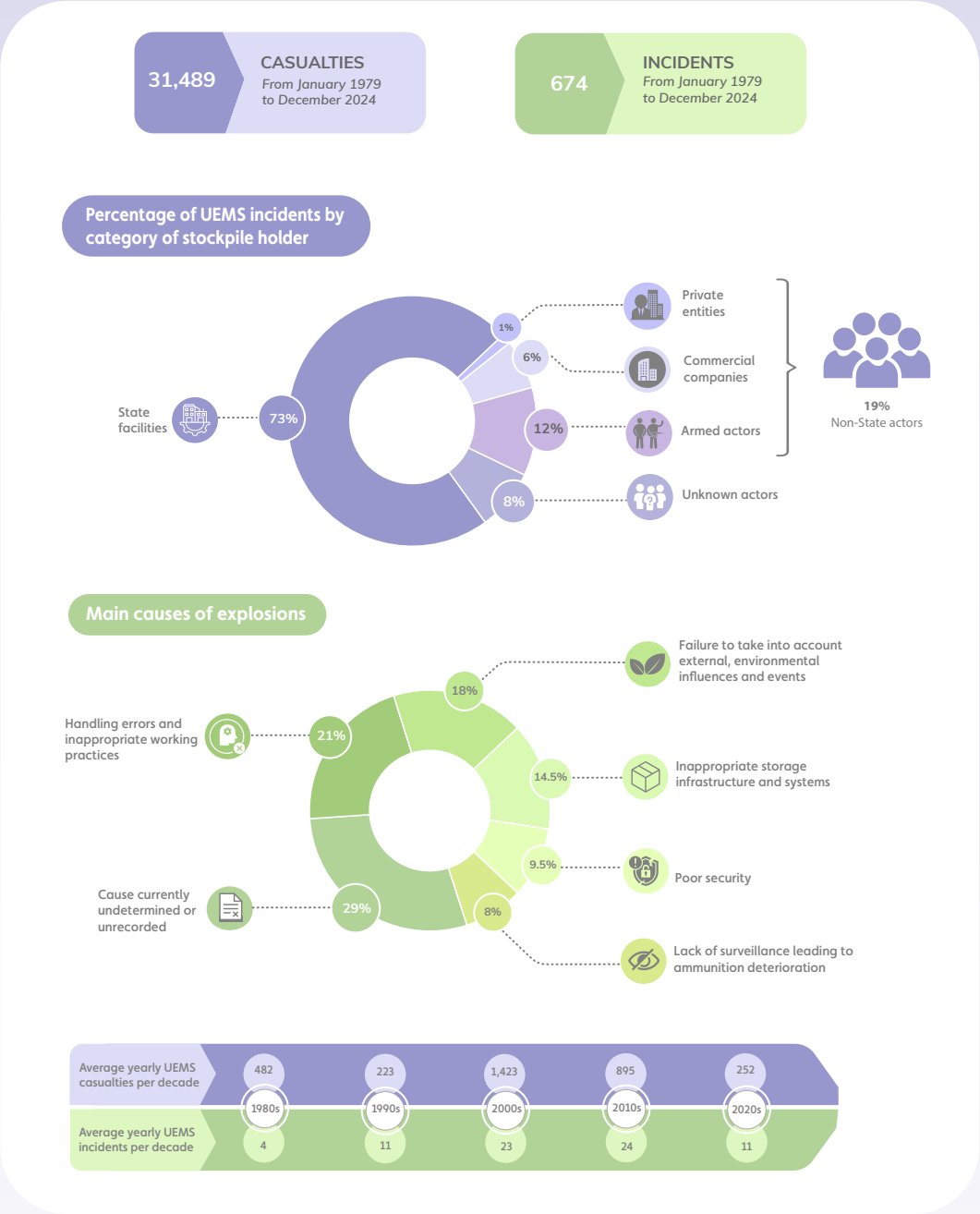
Data source: 2024 national report on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

In 2024, multiple incidents of unplanned explosions took place at ammunition sites across various regions, underscoring the persistent safety risks posed by inadequate ammunition management practices. Building upon the landmark adoption of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management in 2023, States and other stakeholders engaged in substantive discussions at the subregional level on implementing the new political commitments. The deliberations focused on developing comprehensive regional and national approaches to address the challenges of illicit trafficking, diversion and unplanned explosions of conventional ammunition.

The threat posed by improvised explosive devices remained a significant focus for Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian organizations and civil society actors. Throughout 2024, these devices continued

Figure 3.2

Quick facts: unplanned explosions at munition sites



Abbreviation: UEMS – unplanned explosions at munition sites.

From January 1979 to December 2024, more than 31,000 casualties were recorded from incidents caused by unplanned explosions at munitions sites. The data show the importance of adopting effective measures to prevent and reduce the number of explosions at munition sites, while mitigating the consequences for the victims of these incidents. The adoption of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management represents an opportunity to enhance the prevention and mitigation of explosions at munition sites.

Data source: Small Arms Survey.

A law enforcement officer in Saint Kitts and Nevis participates in a firearms and ammunition destruction exercise held from 20 to 24 May. Defence and police forces in the country facilitated the training session in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

to cause devastation across multiple regions in the context of armed conflict, crime and terrorism. Despite a 27 per cent decrease in the total number of incidents from the previous year, civil society organizations recorded a **67 per cent surge in casualties** from attacks involving improvised explosive devices, highlighting their profound human impact. The Security Council addressed the evolving threat through dedicated thematic discussions and within its deliberations on specific country and regional situations.

In 2024, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued its support for the African Union's Silencing the Guns initiative through the continued implementation of their joint Africa Amnesty Month project. Established by the African Union Assembly in 2017, the effort promotes the voluntary surrender of illicitly held small arms and light weapons in accordance with national laws and international agreements, allowing civilians to hand over weapons without fear of arrest or prosecution. In collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the project successfully implemented impactful activities in three beneficiary States: Central African Republic, Djibouti and Rwanda. The activities had the aim of raising awareness about the dangers of illegal arms possession, facilitating weapons collection and strengthening national capacities to combat illicit arms trafficking across the region.

Throughout the year, the Department of Peace Operations and the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to advance their joint initiative on effective weapons and ammunition management in a changing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration context. By fostering interdepartmental collaboration, the effort continued helping to bridge the interconnected domains of arms control, peacekeeping, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in alignment with the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, particularly its focus on reducing the human cost of weapons.

During its 2024 reporting cycle, participation in key transparency instruments showed a slight decline. A total of 57 Member States submitted annual reports to the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, down from 63 in the previous year. Likewise, submissions to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms fell to 65 States in 2024, from 74 in 2023.

Meanwhile, the Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT) expanded its impact, supporting comprehensive and sustainable responses through development-oriented projects in six countries: Ghana, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Papua New Guinea and South Sudan. The United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) continued to serve as a sustainable and predictable funding mechanism for international assistance in the field of conventional arms. In 2024, UNSCAR financed 10 arms control projects implemented by civil society organizations and United Nations partners, while selecting 11 new initiatives for implementation in 2025, further strengthening its role in advancing multilateral arms control objectives.

“States have pledged to build and sustain peace and uphold their disarmament obligations and commitments. … Regional approaches and roadmaps are essential pathways to achieving these goals and require support from the international community and effective cooperation and coordination at all levels.”

Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

4 Regional disarmament

A young finalist in a national Jamaican music and arts competition against firearms violence presents her entry to judges in Kingston on 27 November. The contest, called "Music and Visual Art for Change: Preventing Firearm Violence in Schools", was an initiative of the Jamaican Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4 REGIONAL disarmament

In 2024, despite protracted crises in the Middle East, Haiti, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and Ukraine, regional activities to sustain peace and support disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control goals demonstrated effectiveness and resilience. The aims of those initiatives included preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and countering the illicit manufacturing of and trade in conventional arms, particularly small arms, light weapons and their ammunition. The United Nations actively engaged in such efforts with States, regional and subregional organizations, relevant international organizations and civil society, through various means including exchanges and dialogues, capacity-building projects and information campaigns.

Multilateral arms regulations and disarmament agreements on weapons of mass destruction achieved notable advances in 2024 across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was

ratified by four States: Indonesia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Solomon Islands. Papua New Guinea ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, while Mozambique, Palau and Seychelles ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu acceded to the Biological Weapons Convention. In addition, Colombia ratified the Outer Space Treaty; Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates acceded to the Antarctic Treaty; Gambia and Malawi became parties to the Arms Trade Treaty; and Trinidad and Tobago joined the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia withdrew from the Moon Treaty.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs, for its part, worked through its three regional centres throughout the year to deepen collaboration with various regional and subregional organizations, both identifying new opportunities and reinforcing existing mechanisms for regional dialogue on security and arms control.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, located in Togo, provided targeted support against the widespread proliferation of small arms and light weapons, a trend driven by violent extremism, political instability, porous borders and weak state control. In December, the Regional Centre conducted its first assessment mission in Burundi in support of the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC). The five-day technical mission supported the Government in preparing a national action plan against illicit firearms proliferation, while also assessing challenges around arms marking and the country's progress in implementing the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

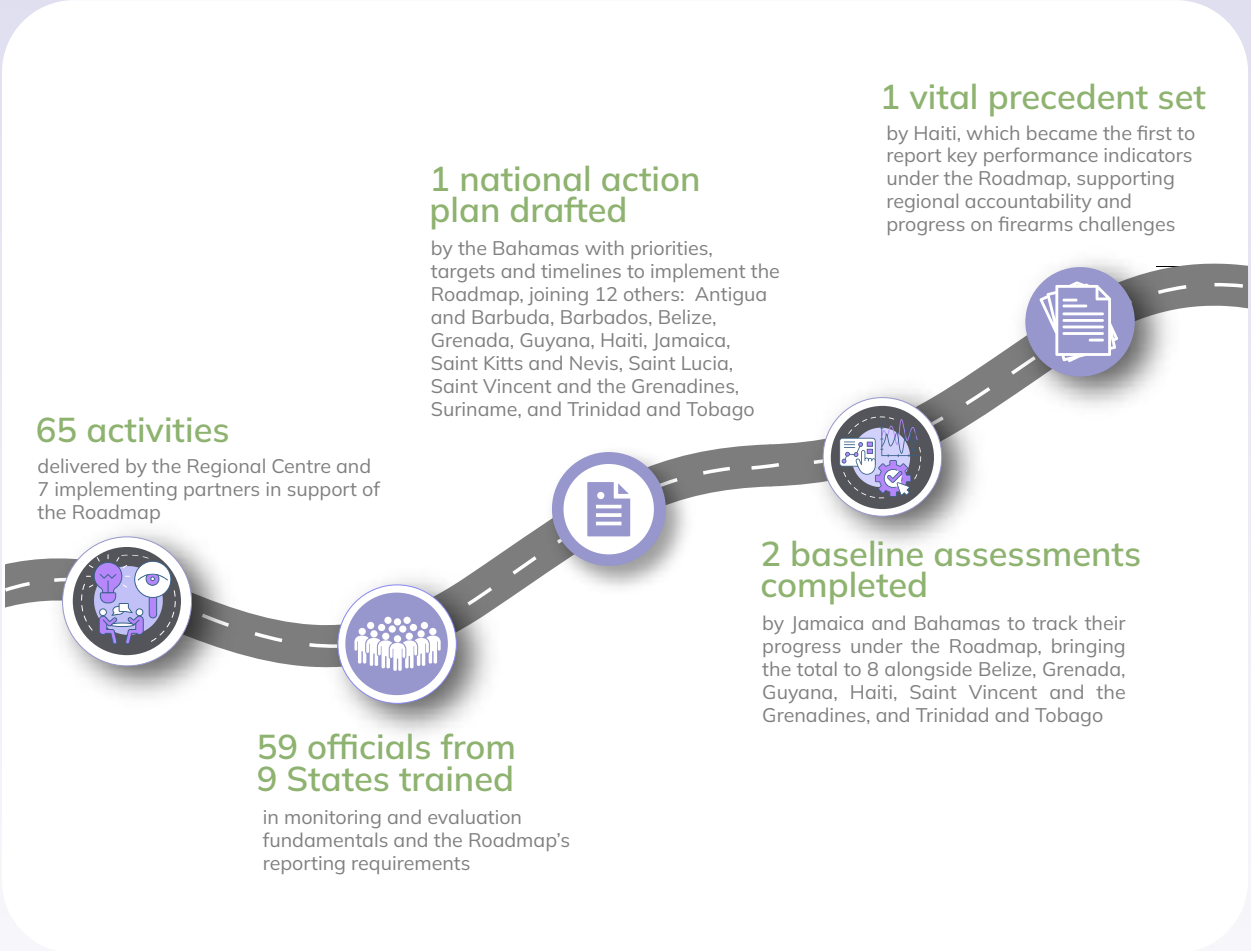
Marking a milestone in the African Union's cooperation with the United Nations on small arms control, the Regional Centre supported a commemoration of Africa Amnesty Month in Bangui in September (for more information on Africa Amnesty Month, see chap. 3). Held in partnership with the African Union Peace and Security Council, the two-day event celebrated the broader annual initiative declared in 2017 to raise awareness about the dangers of illicit small-arms proliferation and to encourage the voluntary surrender of small arms and light weapons illegally held by civilians. The commemoration included the ceremonial destruction of 144 AK-47 rifles in support of the wider effort to reduce the availability of illicit arms. Similar activities in support of Africa Amnesty Month also took place in Djibouti and Rwanda with the Regional Centre's support.

Based in Lima, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean continued leading efforts to advance regional small-arms-control mechanisms, including implementation of the Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030 (Caribbean Firearms Roadmap), and the development of a similar initiative in Central America. To help advance the Caribbean initiative, the Centre continued to support States in conducting baseline assessments and pursuing implementation. One State — the Bahamas — drafted its national implementation action plan for the Roadmap, bringing to 13 the total number of States to have done so since the Roadmap's adoption in 2020.[1] In 2024, as Caribbean States placed a specific focus on data collection and reporting under the Roadmap, the Regional Centre offered support in the form of newly launched guidance on monitoring and evaluation. During the fourth Annual

[1] As at the end of 2024, eight States had approved their national action plans.

Figure 4

The Caribbean Firearms Roadmap: 2024 in numbers



Meeting of States in November, Caribbean States reviewed progress under the Roadmap, discussed challenges and achievements, and established priorities for the Roadmap's 2025 midterm review.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, based in Nepal, continued bringing together States to discuss issues such as conventional arms control, weapons of mass destruction and emerging technologies. The Centre implemented multiple projects in partnership with the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit to assist Governments in the region with biosafety and biosecurity challenges. In October, with support from China and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Centre facilitated a biosecurity discussion among member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Shenzhen, China. The following month, in collaboration with the Republic of Korea, the Centre held the twenty-third Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, focusing on the fiftieth anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention. In December, the Centre and the

Soledad Urruela, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, speaks in Kingston at the award ceremony of the "Music and Visual Art for Change: Preventing Firearm Violence in Schools" competition.

Implementation Support Unit co-hosted a side event on the margins of the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention to share outcomes and insights from the previous events with all Member States.

Additionally, all three regional centres supported a new pilot initiative, funded by UNSCAR, aimed at strengthening the disarmament-development nexus in line with the Pact for the Future and the New Agenda for Peace. The centres planned to continue expanding their support to United Nations country teams to help to integrate arms control into common country analyses and country development frameworks.

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The very quality of seamless, instant connectivity that powers the enormous benefits of cyberspace can also leave people, institutions and entire countries deeply vulnerable. And the perils of weaponizing digital technologies are growing by the year. … Digital technology offers an incredible opportunity to create a more just, equal, sustainable and peaceful future for all. But breakthroughs must be oriented towards the good.

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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5 Emerging, cross-cutting and other issues

Winners of the Sci-fAI Futures Youth Challenge celebrate after its awards ceremony in Seoul on 10 September.

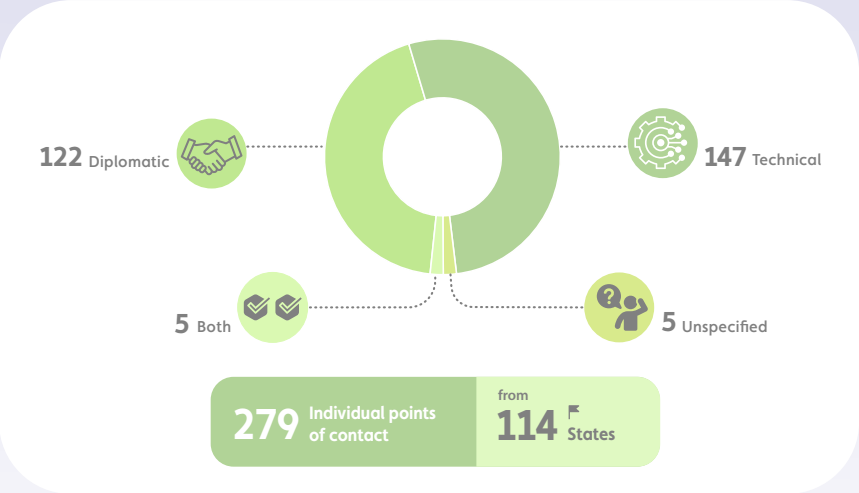
5 EMERGING, CROSS-CUTTING and other issues

In 2024, the international community continued to make progress in addressing several emerging challenges related to developments in science and technology and their implications for international peace and security.

On outer space, the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/250, successfully concluded its work. At its final substantive session, the Group adopted a report (A/79/364) containing a non-exhaustive set of possible substantial elements that could be considered in further measures and appropriate international negotiations, including in a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Group concluded that the report could serve two purposes: first, as a reference document for further measures and appropriate international negotiations on an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Figure 5.1

Global intergovernmental points of contact directory in numbers, as at 31 December 2024



The Office for Disarmament Affairs maintains a Global Intergovernmental Points of Contact Directory on the Use of Information and Communications Technologies in the Context of International Security. Launched in May 2024, this directory aims to facilitate secure and direct communication between Member States regarding ICT incidents and other relevant matters. States can participate by nominating individual points of contact who will be granted access to the online portal.

including on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space; and second, as a contribution to future work on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The General Assembly established a new open-ended working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, replacing the two open-ended working groups that had been established in 2023 (decision 79/512). The new working group was scheduled to meet from 2025 to 2028.

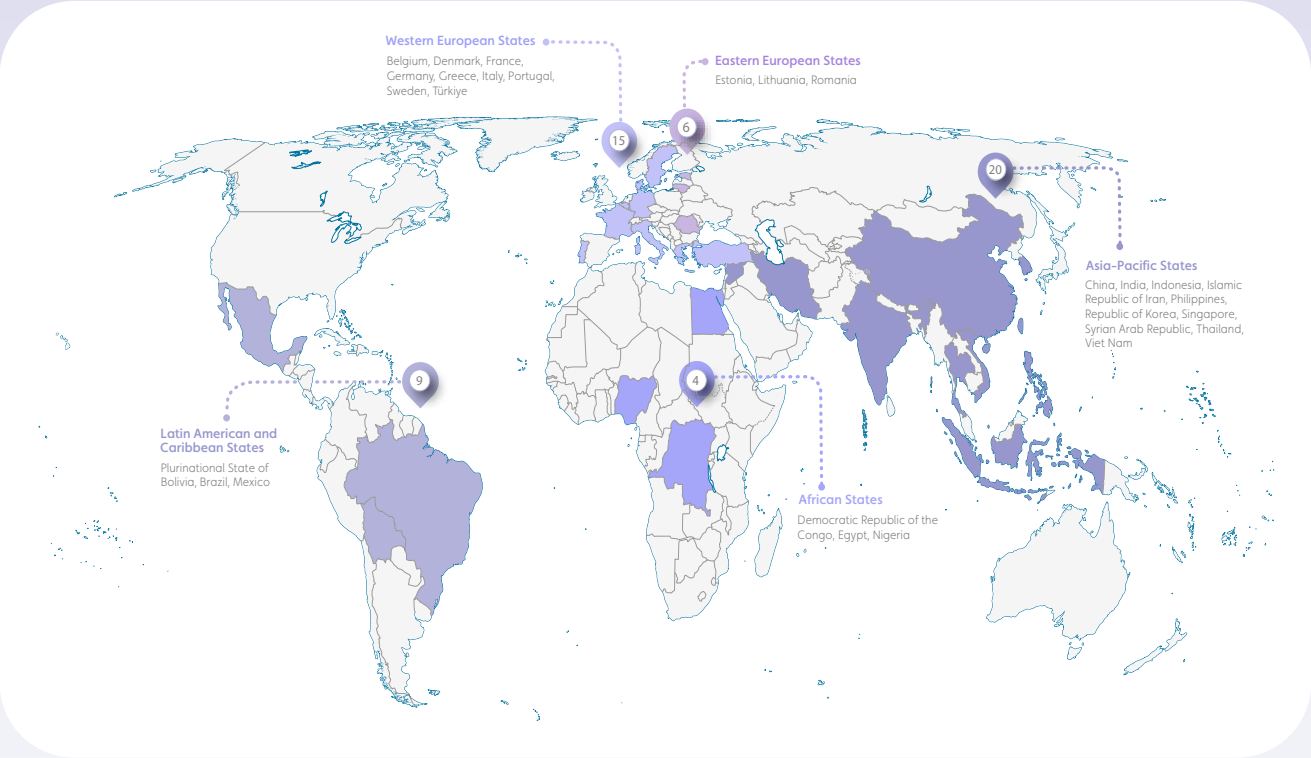
In the first year of a new three-year cycle, the United Nations Disarmament Commission began considering an agenda item entitled "Recommendations on common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security" (for more information, see chap. 7).

The Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (2021–2025) held its seventh, eighth and ninth substantive sessions and adopted its third annual progress report by consensus (A/79/214). In the report, States agreed on new language addressing existing and potential threats, as well as on a new set of confidence-building measures. Additionally, they acknowledged a norms implementation checklist drafted by the Chair and set out an overarching framework outlining the scope, structure and modalities for a future permanent mechanism on information and communications technologies security.

At the Summit of the Future, in September 2024, the General Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future as resolution 79/1, with the Global Digital Compact included as an annex. In the Pact, Member States demonstrated their commitment to multilateral disarmament processes and instruments, positioning disarmament issues within the context of broader peace and security efforts. Their Heads of State and Government underscored the potential impact of rising military expenditures

Figure 5.2

Regional distribution of participants in the 2024 workshops on promoting responsible innovation in artificial intelligence for peace and security



A series of workshops on responsible innovation in artificial intelligence (AI) for peace and security have taken place since 2023. In 2024, Young AI practitioners from around the world gathered in Belgium, Estonia and Portugal to address the risks that the misuse of civilian AI could pose to international peace and security. The workshops incorporated scenario-based training, educational resources and multi-stakeholder dialogue to help empower future AI professionals to mitigate risks and contribute to ethical, inclusive and secure AI development. They were organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute with support from the European Union.

The map above shows the geographical representation of the participants during the 2024 workshops, with most coming from Asia-Pacific and Western European States.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

MAP SOURCE: United Nations Geospatial.

on investments in sustainable development and sustaining peace. Member States committed to advancing various disarmament priorities through appropriate processes and forums, including bringing the world closer to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, addressing existing and emerging threats posed by emerging technologies, and confronting challenges related to the diversion and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

Building on those broad commitments, the Pact outlined specific actions in several key areas. Member States agreed to advance further measures and appropriate international negotiations to prevent an arms race in outer

space in all its aspects. They also committed to urgently advancing discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems through the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The Pact further emphasized the need to enhance international cooperation and capacity-building efforts to close digital divides, as well as continuing to assess the existing and potential risks associated with military applications of artificial intelligence (AI). Member States asked the Secretary-General to provide ongoing updates on new and emerging technologies.

The Global Digital Compact (annex I) included an objective on enhancing the international governance of AI for the benefit of humanity as one of its key objectives. To advance that goal, the General Assembly decided to establish a multidisciplinary Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, and to initiate a Global Dialogue on AI Governance within the United Nations framework.

On autonomous weapons systems, the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems convened, in accordance with a decision of the 2023 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW/MSP/2023/7, para. 20). Following its mandate and building on previous recommendations and conclusions, the Group worked to consider and formulate a set of elements of an instrument, without prejudging its nature and taking into account the example of existing Protocols within the Convention. In its deliberations, the Group considered draft elements on (a) a working characterization of such systems; (b) the application of international humanitarian law; (c) possible prohibitions and regulations; (d) other measures to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law; and (e) accountability (for more information, see chap. 3).

Responding to General Assembly resolution 78/241, the Secretary-General prepared a report on lethal autonomous weapons systems (A/79/88), incorporating views of 47 States and groups of States, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and 28 civil society entities comprising both individual organizations and informal groupings. The report summarized States' perspectives on definitions and characterizations; challenges, concerns and potential benefits; deliberations by States; and next steps. In his observations and conclusions, the Secretary-General reiterated his call for the conclusion, by 2026, of a legally binding instrument to prohibit lethal autonomous weapons systems that function without human control or oversight and cannot be used in compliance with international humanitarian law, and to regulate all other types of autonomous weapon systems. He also called on the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to work diligently to fulfil the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems as soon as possible and encouraged the General Assembly to continue its consideration of this matter.

“

Women are significantly underrepresented in multilateral arms control and disarmament processes, and face barriers to participating in conventional arms control at the national level. Removing the barriers for women’s participation not only contributes to breaking down gender norms and challenging patriarchal systems that drive conflict-related sexual violence; it also leads to more effective response efforts.

Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

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6 Gender and disarmament

Participants attend the second international Training for Women Ammunition Technical Experts on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, in Austria in July.

6

GENDER and disarmament

In adopting the Pact for the Future in September (General Assembly resolution 79/1), Member States agreed to a set of actions to advance their commitments on women, peace and security, while advancing implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. They recognized women's essential role in achieving sustainable peace and committed to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all decision-making levels. States also pledged to take targeted and accelerated action to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence. In considering the risks and opportunities of new and emerging technologies, States agreed to address barriers to women's participation in science and technology, and to address gender-related challenges emerging from the use of technologies, including bias, discrimination and gender-based violence. Underscoring a tension noted consistently in United Nations contexts, States also expressed concern over rising military expenditures and their impact on investments in sustainable development and peace.

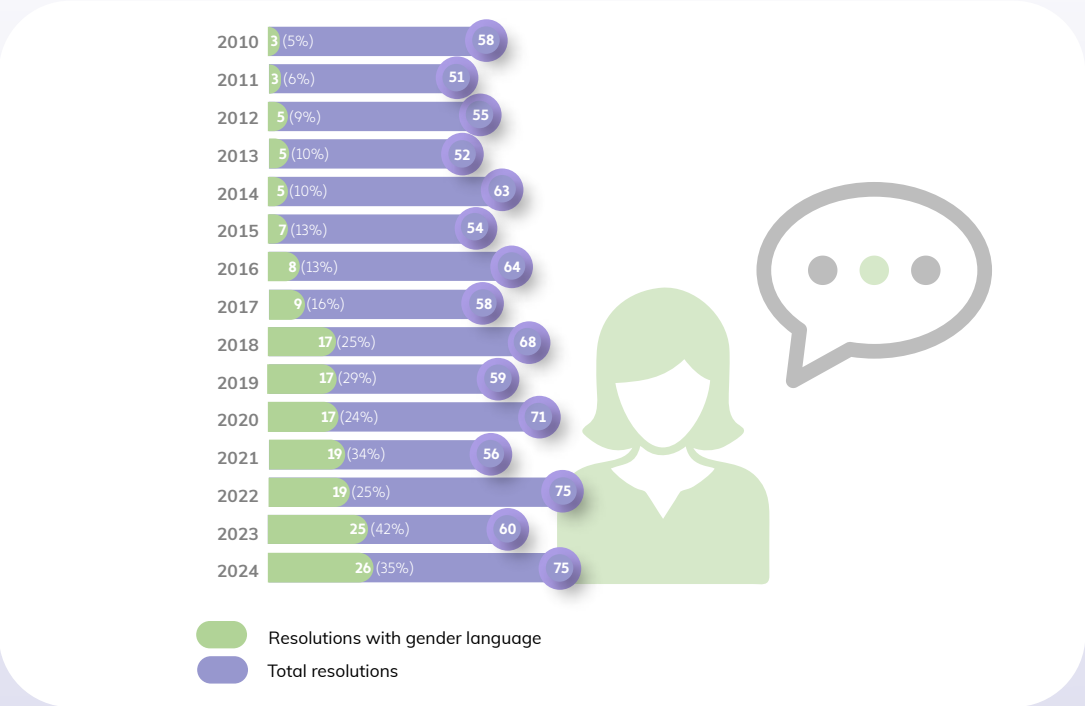
Global military expenditures continued to rise throughout 2024. In his annual report to the Security Council on women, peace and security (S/2024/671), the Secretary-General reported that global military expenditures had increased for the ninth consecutive year in 2023, reaching an unprecedented $2.44 trillion. This represented a 6.8 per cent increase in real terms from 2022, further diverting resources from other global priorities, including gender equality and women's empowerment.

The General Assembly adopted by consensus a revised version of the biennial resolution on "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control" (resolution 79/57),[1] although it was notably subject to 12 paragraph votes, a record. Through the resolution, the Assembly encouraged States to address the gendered impact of armed violence and recognized, for the first time, women's contribution in all aspects of arms control and disarmament efforts, including weapons of mass destruction, and the need to facilitate and promote women's leadership in disarmament efforts. Approximately 34 per cent of disarmament resolutions adopted during the General Assembly's seventy-ninth session contained references to gender, including several resolutions introduced for the first

[1] The measure was first introduced by Trinidad and Tobago and adopted as General Assembly resolution 65/69 on 8 December 2010.

Figure 6.1

Number and proportion of First Committee resolutions incorporating gender language, 2010–2024



Of the 75 resolutions adopted at the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, First Committee, 26 resolutions mentioned gender or women.

time.[2] Additionally, Member States provided inputs to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", sharing information on their national efforts to incorporate gender perspectives into their national disarmament policies and programmes.

The connection between disarmament and conflict-related sexual violence was further reinforced as a key theme in 2024. In his annual report to the Security Council on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2024/292), the Secretary-General stressed that the illicit proliferation and widespread availability of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition directly facilitated incidents of sexual violence. He further noted that weapons proliferation, by fuelling armed conflict, contributed to creating environments conducive to perpetrating sexual violence with impunity.

On 23 April, the Security Council convened its annual open debate on conflict-related sexual violence (S/PV.9614, S/PV.9614 (Resumption 1) and S/PV.9614 (Resumption 2)). Chaired by Malta, the meeting focused on the theme "Preventing conflict-related sexual violence through demilitarization and gender-

[2] Resolution 79/238 of 24 December 2024 on "Nuclear war effects and scientific research"; resolution 79/239 of 24 December 2024 on "Artificial intelligence in the military domain and its implications for international peace and security"; resolution 79/240 of 24 December 2024 on "Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification" and resolution 79/241 of 24 December 2024 on "Comprehensive study of the question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in all its aspects".

Eleven Security Council members brief reporters to reaffirm their shared commitment to prevent conflict-related sexual violence

Malta, Ecuador, France, Guyana, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States — signatories of a joint statement on women, peace and security — held a press stakeout in New York on 4 April. They urged all States to harness conventional arms control and disarmament treaties, instruments and measures to help prevent conflict-related sexual violence.

On 24 October, Maritza Chan, Chair of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, First Committee, and Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, join women delegates of the Committee, Youth Champions for Disarmament and Office for Disarmament Affairs staff members in kicking off Disarmament Week.

responsive arms control". In her briefing to the Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict advocated for using measures imposed by United Nations sanctions regimes to stop the flow of weapons into the hands of perpetrators of sexual violence. A civil society representative, from Darfur Women Action Group, addressed the situation in the Sudan, emphasizing how the spread of weapons had enabled the current levels of sexual violence and highlighting continued violations of the Security Council's arms embargo. During the debate, numerous Council members underscored the importance of preventing the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, reducing military spending and enforcing arms embargoes to stop conflict-related sexual violence. The Russian Federation, however, expressed opposition to linking the prevention of such violence to disarmament initiatives under the women, peace and security agenda.

In a **joint statement**, 11 Council members — Malta, Ecuador, France, Guyana, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States — urged all States to harness conventional arms control and disarmament treaties, instruments and measures to prevent conflict-related sexual violence. They called for States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty to fully and effectively implement and report on the instrument's gender provisions. Similarly, they encouraged Member States to observe gender-related language in the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. The Security Council members reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring women's full, equal, meaningful and safe participation in all United Nations-facilitated peace negotiations, ceasefire negotiations and security sector reforms, while advocating for explicit provisions prohibiting

Figure 6.2

Highlights: Women's participation in multilateral disarmament forums, 2024

Gender parity in disarmament

45%

of statements were made by women during meetings of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025

23

First Committee resolutions mention "gender", "women" or "diversity"

conflict-related sexual violence in those agreements and their monitoring frameworks.

The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs addressed some of these issues on 23 October at a **commemoration** marking the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict by Security Council resolution **1888 (2009)**. In her **remarks** at the event, the High Representative emphasized that disarmament, arms control and demilitarization must form a key part of efforts to prevent conflict-related sexual violence, describing the proliferation of weapons as both a driver and enabler of conflict-related sexual violence.

In his annual report to the Security Council on women, peace and security (**S/2024/671**), the Secretary-General highlighted the impact of militarization and of the spread of weapons and ammunition on civilians, particularly women. He called for the adoption of gender-responsive measures related to small arms and light weapons, as well as human-centred disarmament approaches. During the Security Council's debate on women, peace and security in October (**S/PV.9760** and **S/PV.9760 (Resumption 1)**), several States continued to advocate for effective gender-sensitive disarmament measures as a means to prevent conflict and protect women's rights.

In his annual report to the General Assembly on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security (**A/79/224**), the Secretary-General noted that emerging technologies, including those in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems, rely on data sets that could amplify social bias, including gender bias. He encouraged Member States to integrate ways to identify and examine such risks into review mechanisms for new and emerging technologies. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters called for a holistic consideration of technological advances in the military domain, including from a human rights perspective, emphasizing the particular need to consider gender equality in this context (**A/79/240**).

“

Despite the current diplomatic deadlock, the central premise behind [the Conference on Disarmament] remains as vital as ever. The most effective disarmament tool is inclusive diplomacy. We need that diplomacy now — urgently. And you have the power to deliver it, and change this Organization for the better.

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

”

7 Disarmament machinery

The Chair of the 2025 substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon (Pakistan), addresses the Commission's 390th plenary meeting at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 1 April. (Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe)

7 DISARMAMENT machinery

The year 2024 saw modest progress across the disarmament machinery. In particular, the Conference on Disarmament adopted a decision in June on the work of its 2024 session, a positive signal for the body's future work that importantly also introduced the concept of continuity between annual sessions. Elsewhere, in the United Nations Disarmament Commission, States began a new three-year cycle by considering two substantive agenda items in their respective working groups: "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" in Working Group I; and "Recommendations on common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security" in Working Group II. States welcomed the start of a new cycle and expressed hope in reaching agreement on consensus recommendations.

Overall participation in the General Assembly, First Committee, remained high, with delegates delivering markedly more statements across every issue area than the previous year. In its seventy-ninth session, the Committee adopted five new proposals addressing the effects of nuclear war; the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones; strengthening

and institutionalizing the Biological Weapons Convention; weapons of mass destruction in outer space; and artificial intelligence in the military domain. Despite ongoing divisions on matters such as the pace of nuclear disarmament and the ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the Committee completed its work within the allocated five weeks, adopting a total of 77 draft proposals.

In the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament, after intensive consultations by the first four Presidents — India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq — the Conference decided to establish five subsidiary bodies for its 2024 session. Each subsidiary body met for one day and held a general exchange of views under the relevant agenda items, touching on specific topics for future meetings. All five bodies agreed on both a report to the Conference and a recommendation that it decide in 2025 to reinstate the subsidiary bodies for that year with their present mandates and coordinators. The issue of participation by States not members of the Conference remained deeply divisive, however; the Conference ultimately opted to consider each request for participation individually, approving 22 of the 39 submitted.[1]

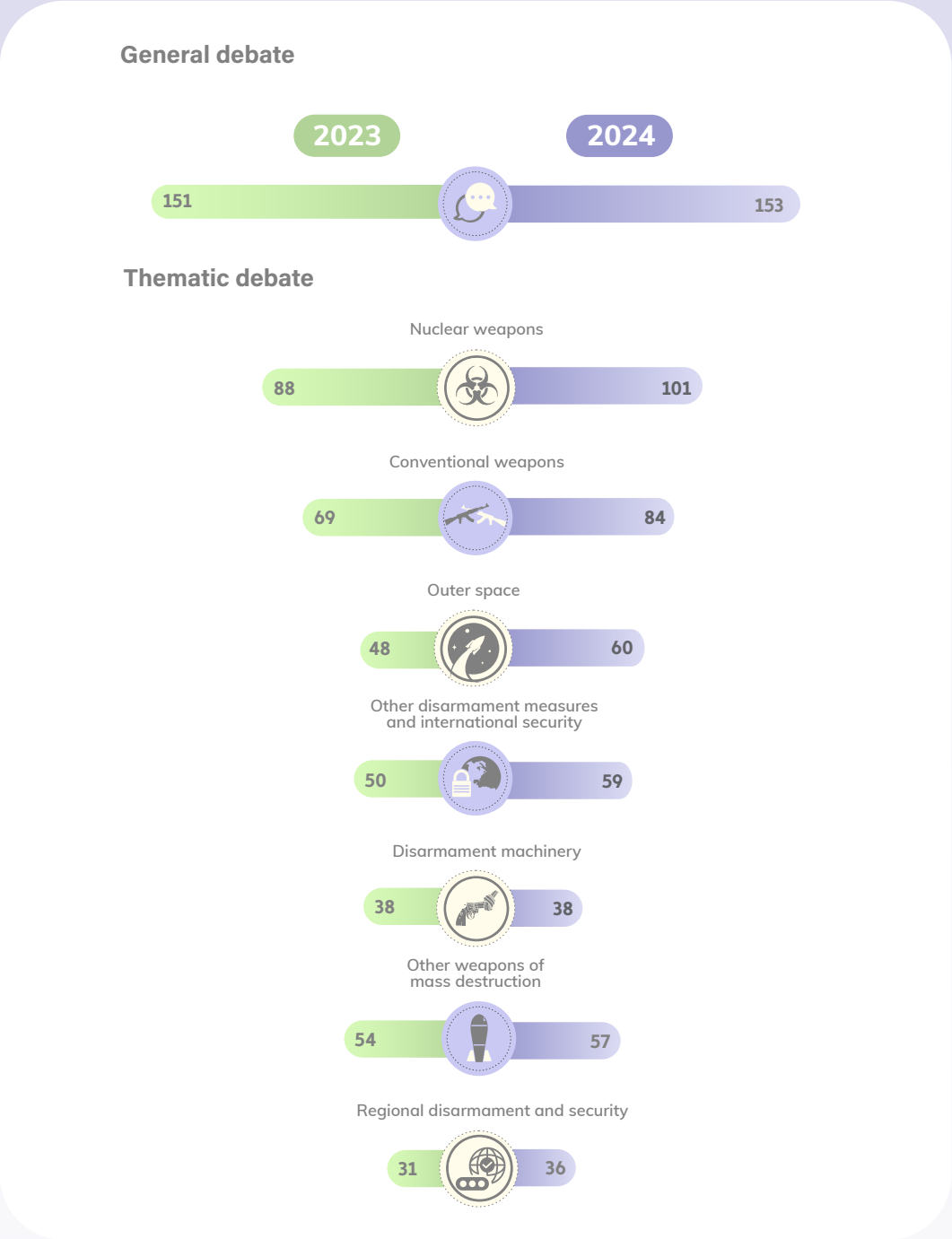
The United Nations Disarmament Commission convened its 2024 substantive session from 1 to 19 April, under the chairmanship of Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon (Pakistan). Immediately after the organizational session, also held on 1 April, the Commission re-elected by acclamation Akaki Dvali (Georgia) as Chair of Working Group I and Julia Elizabeth Rodríguez Acosta (El Salvador) as Chair of Working Group II. The Commission held a general exchange of views over four plenary meetings on 1 and 2 April before the two working groups commenced their work.

In response to the dynamic global environment, the Secretary-General requested the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to conduct a strategic foresight exercise over 2024 and 2025 to identify both present and future risks and opportunities for international peace and security emanating from advances in science and technology. The year 2024 marked the midway point in the Board's discussions, which emphasized a growing need for the United Nations to systematically analyse how scientific and technological advances intersect with disarmament and arms control. Key concerns raised by the Board included ensuring human control over AI and autonomous weapons; ensuring compliance with international law; understanding the roles of various stakeholders, including States, the private sector, civil society, the scientific community and non-State armed groups; and examining how new technologies interact with existing weapon systems. The Board also focused on anticipating the future implications of these developments for disarmament and arms control priorities.

[1] **Approved:** Angola, Armenia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Holy See, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Niger, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Thailand and United Arab Emirates. **Not approved**: Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and State of Palestine.

Figure 7

First Committee 2024 at a glance: number of delegations delivering statements, 2023–2024



The rise in delegations delivering statements at the First Committee in 2024 signalled growing global engagement with disarmament and security issues, as more countries voiced concern over nuclear, conventional and outer space threats.

The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, addresses the United Nations Disarmament Commission at the opening meeting of its 2025 substantive session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 1 April. (Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe)

“

We can begin the process of reform and revitalization … by securing full and meaningful participation in civic life and peacebuilding — particularly young people, women and girls, and other historically marginalized communities. In short, we must 'cultivate a culture of peace'.

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

”

8 Information and outreach

On 3 December, young leaders from across Latin America lead a discussion in Lima as part of GenerAcción Paz. The programme to empower youth to build a region free of armed violence was launched in 2024 by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Programme.

8 INFORMATION and outreach

In 2024, the General Assembly adopted its biennial resolutions on the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" (79/69) and the "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education" (79/28). These mandates, alongside the Assembly's recurring resolution on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation (78/31), continued to guide the information and outreach activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and relevant efforts by other United Nations entities. The aims of this work included providing Member States, the diplomatic community, non-governmental organizations and the public with unbiased, up-to-date and relevant information on multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as well as promoting young people's meaningful and inclusive participation in the field.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs engaged a record number of young people globally in its educational and empowerment programmes during the year, with participants taking part online and at in-person events held in Japan, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the United

Figure 8.1

Youth4Disarmament programme: 2024 in numbers

Youth Champions for Disarmament

15 youth leaders
aged 18 to 24 were selected

from over
1,000 applicants

across
128 countries
for the second iteration of the two-year programme

They participated in the fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in June and the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly's First Committee in October at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons

50 youth leaders
aged 18 to 24 from 37 countries visited Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo in August as part of the Youth Leader Fund's inaugural study tour

The group was among the
100 youth participants
selected

from over
2,000 applicants
in 2023 to join the first phase of this programme

Youth for Biosecurity Fellowship

20 young scientists
and early-career professionals aged 22 to 35

from
17 countries
from the Global South, attended the nine-day training programme in Geneva in August

after completing
5 webinars

This was the second iteration of the fellowship programme, developed in response to high interest in annual workshops held on the subject since 2019.

GenerAcción Paz

10 youth leaders
aged 18 to 29

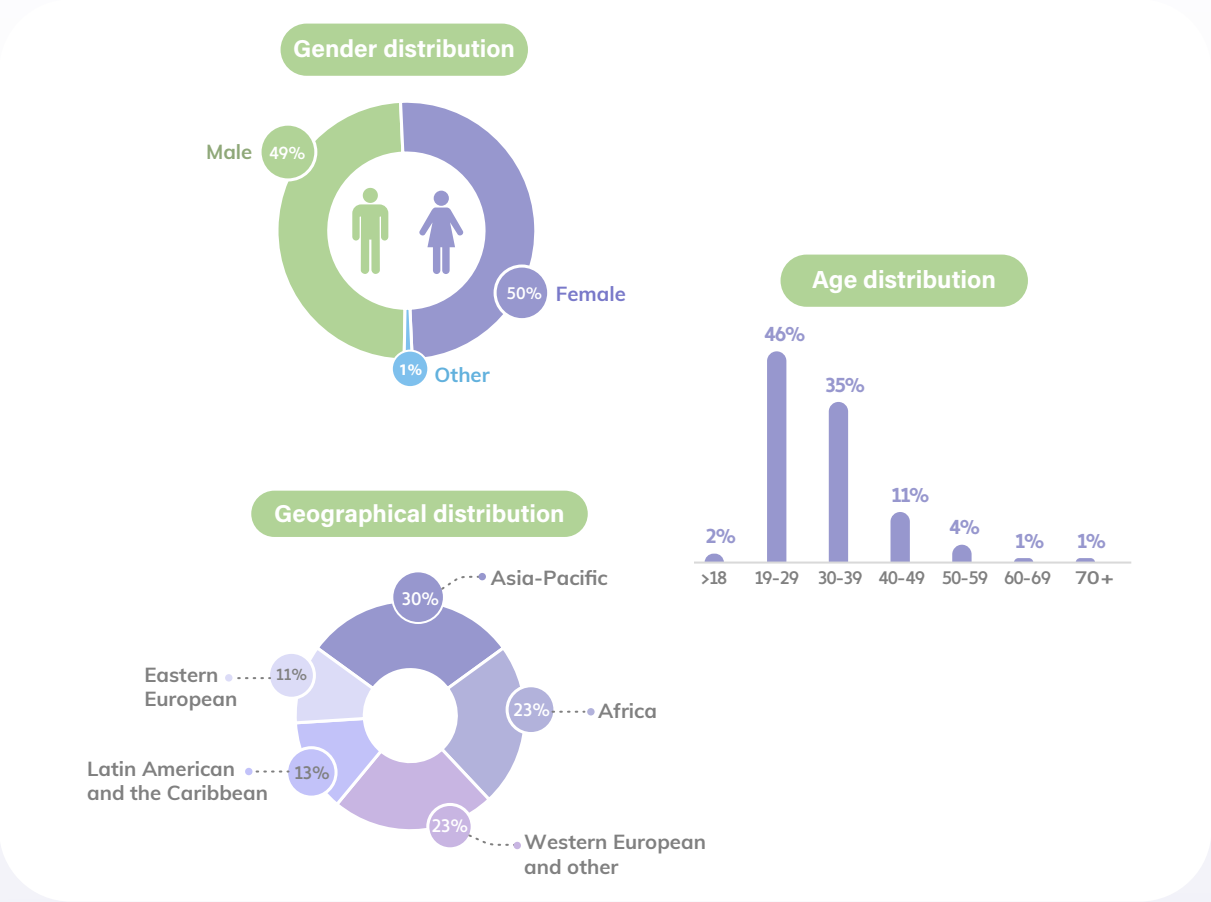
from
9 Latin American countries
participated in the first iteration

of the
9-month
Spanish-speaking youth programme aimed at reducing armed violence and promoting peace

States and beyond. The second edition of the Youth Champions for Disarmament Training Programme brought together a diverse cohort of 15 selected young people who developed community projects and participated in key United Nations forums, delivering statements and leading side events at the General Assembly, First Committee, and the fourth Review Conference on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Office also launched the Sci-fAI Futures Youth Challenge, engaging youth aged 13 to 29 in exploring the risks of AI in military operations, and supported youth-led discussions at the twenty-third Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues. Through its fourth annual #StepUp4Disarmament campaign, the Office encouraged young people to advocate against nuclear weapons by completing a

Figure 8.2

Charting progress: the global reach of online disarmament education, as at 31 December 2024



The Disarmament Education Dashboard demonstrates strong inclusivity and expanding global reach. Participation is gender-balanced, with 50 per cent female, 49 per cent male and 1 per cent indicating "other". Regional distribution is led by the Asia-Pacific group at 30 per cent, while African States and Western European and other States together account for 46 per cent of new participation. The e-learning platform is especially popular among younger audiences — 46 per cent of users are aged 19 to 29 and 35 per cent are aged 30 to 39 — reflecting robust youth engagement in peace and security education.

distance of 8.29 km in observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August). The year also featured notable regional initiatives such as the GenerAcción Paz programme, which engaged 10 Spanish-speaking youth leaders in Latin America.

The Office successfully concluded its largest youth-focused initiative to date, the **Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons**, which provided 100 scholarships to young people from 63 countries to participate in online coursework on nuclear disarmament. From this cohort, 50 participants were selected to join a week-long, in-person study visit to Nagasaki, Hiroshima and Tokyo. The programme culminated in the Youth Leader Conference, where participants officially adopted the **DeclarACTION** — a document outlining their commitments and planned actions for nuclear disarmament advocacy.

In 2024, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to strengthen the sustainability and impact of its educational offerings in line with its 2022 **Disarmament Education Strategy.** The Vienna Office maintained its role as the Office's education hub, supporting the strategic prioritization, development and execution of educational initiatives throughout the year. A significant milestone was the launch of a new disarmament education **website** that consolidated resources, tools and learning opportunities for diverse audiences. The Office's other activities in this area included recurring events in the Vienna Conversation Series and in the Disarmament Conversation Series of its Geneva Branch, as well as programming delivered to hundreds of learners by the Office's regional centres in Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu. Meanwhile, the **Disarmament Education Dashboard** continued to grow, attracting over 4,000 new users and offering specialized e-learning courses for diplomats, youth leaders and other stakeholders. A course focused on youth and disarmament gained particular attention, furthering the Office's commitment to engaging young people in disarmament efforts.

Meanwhile, fellowship and training programmes retained their vital role in developing new expertise within the disarmament field. The **United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme** — established in 1978 to promote greater disarmament knowledge among Member States, particularly developing countries — trained diplomats and other officials from 25 States. From March to August, the second iteration of the **Youth for Biosecurity Fellowship** engaged 20 young leaders in life sciences from 17 States in the global South, attracting over 2,400 applications from more than 100 countries — a 200 per cent increase from the previous year — and offering participants online learning sessions with experts, a collaborative research project, and a 10-day immersive study visit to Geneva during the fourth session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention. Additionally, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Cybersecurity Agency of Singapore co-organized two sessions of the **United Nations-Singapore Cyber Fellowship**.

In partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the European Union, the Office concluded the second year of its initiative "**Promoting responsible innovation in artificial intelligence for peace and security**". The programme delivered a series of events — including in-person workshops held in Estonia, Portugal and Belgium — aimed at supporting greater engagement from the civilian AI community in mitigating the risks that the misuse of civilian AI technology could pose to international peace and security.

The Office attracted over 600,000 visitors to its main website (**https://disarmament.unoda.org**), which regularly featured updates, speeches

and press releases in all six United Nations languages, even as the website underwent a significant upgrade to improve content management, security and performance. The Meetings Place website (https://meetings.unoda.org) also improved, offering faster data entry, better metadata and new features for document generation.

In 2024, the Office continued its comprehensive database integration initiative aimed at creating a unified portal for disarmament-related data. Major milestones included an upgrade of the Military Expenditures Database with enhanced reporting tools and analytics capabilities, and the launch of the new Gender database, providing sex-disaggregated data on delegate participation in multilateral disarmament forums. Meanwhile, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms began a two-phase upgrade scheduled for completion in 2025, intended to improve data accessibility and transparency.

For the forty-eighth consecutive year since 1976, the Office published the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, providing a comprehensive account of the previous year's developments in the field of disarmament. The 2023 *Yearbook* was the second to feature a graphically enhanced preview edition issued in advance of the comprehensive text, which was published online later in the year.

Throughout 2024, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs participated in numerous interviews with international media outlets, including the *Sankei Shimbun* in Japan and Jibek Joly Television in Kazakhstan. The High Representative also briefed the press on the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Nihon Hidankyo, the Japanese organization of atomic bomb survivors. Media coverage of the Office's initiatives expanded significantly, with the Youth Leader Fund study visit to Japan garnering attention from news outlets in Australia, Japan and Somalia. To further enhance its reach, the Office issued 10 press releases during the year and strengthened its digital presence by distributing its podcasts on major platforms, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts, while maintaining active engagement on its Flickr, Instagram and X social media channels.

Participants of the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial on 26 August.

Participants in the Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park as part of the programme's inaugural study visit to Japan in August.

Annex

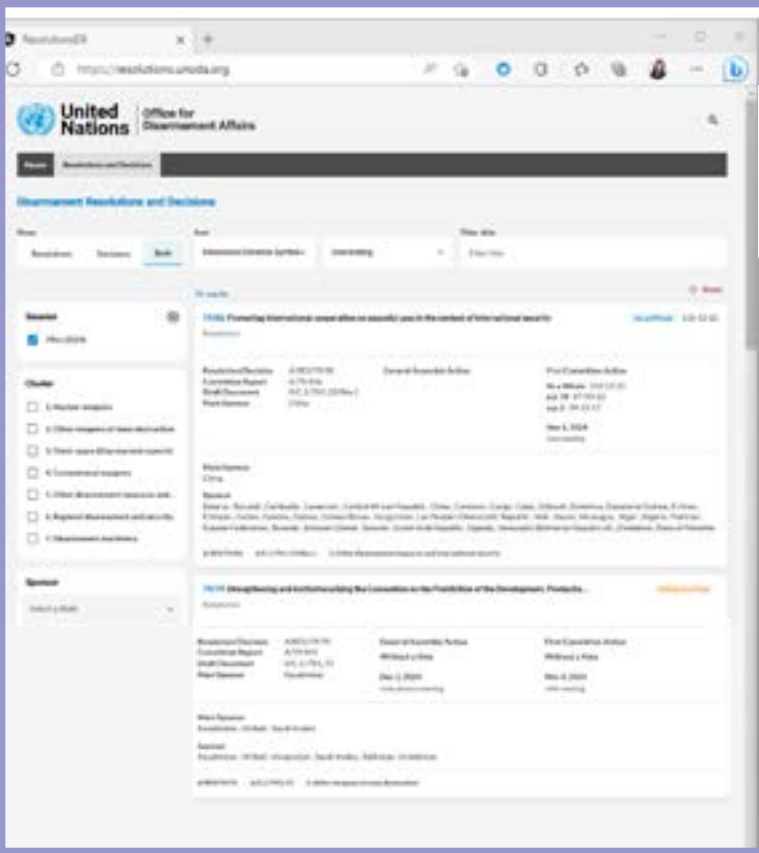
RESOLUTIONS, STATUS OF TREATIES and other RESOURCES

DISARMAMENT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS of the seventy-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly

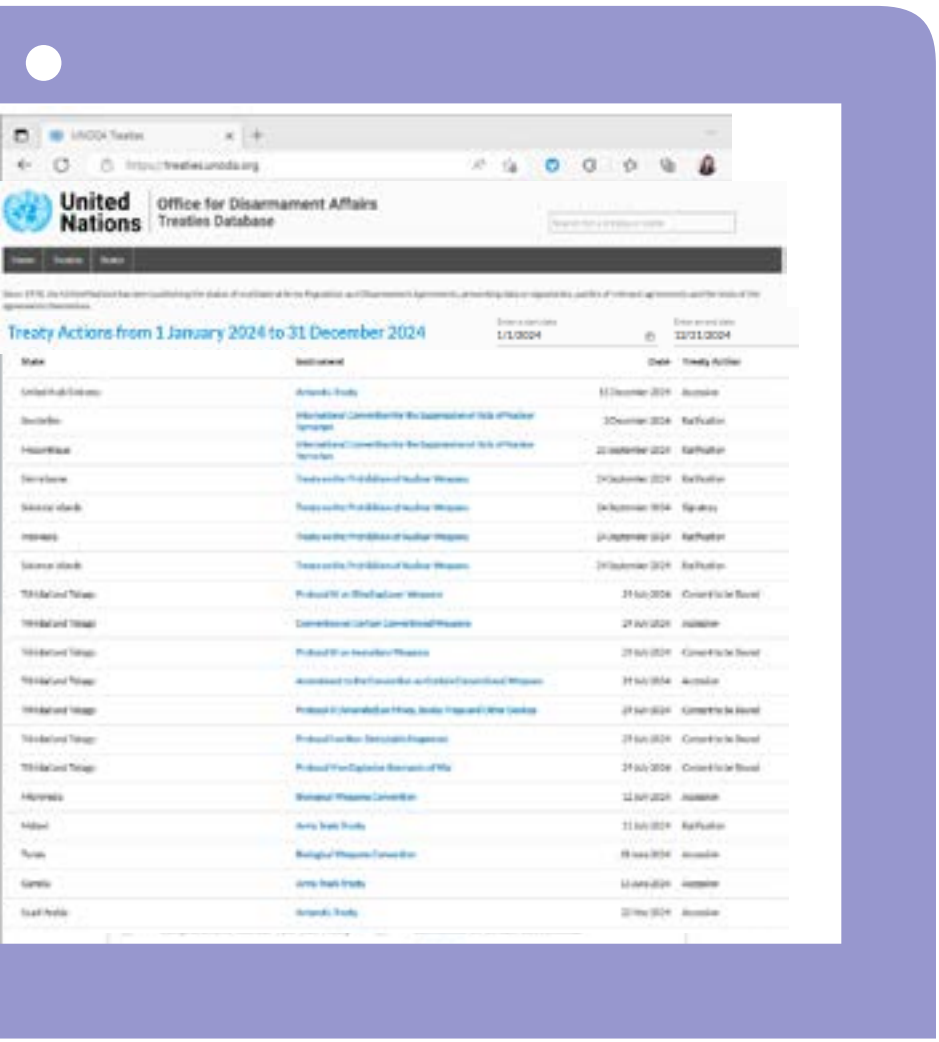
Disarmament Resolutions and Decisions Database

https://resolutions.unoda.org

The database lists the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly over the years. The platform features filters to pinpoint specific topics and titles, and to track State voting and sponsoring patterns.



Status of multilateral arms regulation and **DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS**



Disarmament Treaties Database

https://treaties.unoda.org

The database is a comprehensive repository of disarmament-related treaties. It highlights the most recent ratifications, accessions, signatures and other treaty actions. Users may easily filter data, such as actions by date, treaty and State.

PUBLICATIONS and other INFORMATION MATERIALS in 2024*

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Publications

- *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook 2023*, vol. 48 (condensed and full versions) (Sales No. E.24.IX.3)
- *Youth and Peace in the Age of AI: Stories by the Sci-fAI Futures Youth Challenge Winners*, Occasional Papers, No. 43 (Sales No. E.25.IX.3)
- *Governance of Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain*, Occasional Papers, No. 42 (Sales No. E.24.IX.4)
- *The Impacts of the Availability of Firearms in Central America*, Civil Society and Disarmament 2024 (Sales No. E.25.IX.4)
- *Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions, 2023–2024*
- *Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management* (A/78/111, annex)
- *The Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and its Application in Latin America and the Caribbean* (background paper)
- *Guidelines for the Development of Protocols to Tackle the Presence and Use of Firearms in Schools* (in Spanish) (July 2024)
- *Disarmament Week: 2024 Photo Exhibition Photo Catalogue* (October 2024)
- *Synergizing Data Collection Efforts: A Guidance Document on Reporting under the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap in the Context of Existing Reporting Obligations* (November 2024)
- *Firearms Marking with Laser Engraving: Technical Insights and Recommendations* (working paper) (December 2024)
- Channeling youth expertise and influence for a world without nuclear weapons, blog
- Newsletter for nominated experts and analytical laboratories for the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons (No. 7 (January 2024) and No. 8 (June 2024))
- UNODA† Updates (online news updates)

E-learning courses

- "GenerAcción Paz" programme (instructor-led; in Spanish)
- "Disarmament Toolkit" (2024 edition)
- "The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its protocols"
- "Youth and Disarmament"
- "New and emerging technologies & nuclear weapons"
- "Humanitarian approaches to nuclear disarmament"
- "Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention – training for national contact points and other relevant stakeholders"

Podcasts

- "Reducing the human cost of weapons: human-centred disarmament through a gender lens", 15 March
- "Non-proliferation, disarmament & global governance: the role of the Vienna community in the preparations for the Summit of the Future and beyond", 30 January
- "Different means for a common goal: diplomacy, youth participation, education and artistic engagement to advance disarmament and non-proliferation", 12 June
- "After the Summit of the Future: new momentum for arms control and disarmament?", 8 October
- "Women, Forces of Change: the podcast" (10 episodes; in Spanish), 8 November

* Publications jointly authored by programmes have an asterisk next to the title. Please note that co-authored publications appear twice in this list, once in the section of each authoring programme.

† United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Videos

- "YLF participants organize the Youth Leader Conference", September 2024
- Music and visual art competition in Jamaica (November 2024)
- "Caribbean Firearms Roadmap: implementing partners – overview", November 2024
- "Caribbean Firearms Roadmap: implementing partners", December 2024
- UNODA Vienna 2024 highlights (December 2024)
- Women, Forces of Change: Latin American and Caribbean women promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (December 2024)

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Conventional arms and ammunition

Publications

- *The Use of Uncrewed Aerial Systems by Non-State Armed Groups: Exploring Trends in Africa*
- *Unregulated: Examining the Global Proliferation of Craft-produced Weapons* (factsheet) (in English, French and Spanish)
- *Inputs for Action on Small Arms: Conclusions and Recommendations from the Thematic Expert Seminars* (in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish)
- *The Role of Interagency Cooperation in the Effective Implementation of Arms Trade Treaty Provisions* (brainstorming workshop summary report) (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)
- *Regional Seminar on the Prevention of Violent Extremism and the Management of Conventional Weapons in West Africa* (summary report) (in English and French)
- *Weapons and Ammunition Management – Country Insight Series: Republic of Benin* (in English and French)
- *Weapons and Ammunition Management in Africa Insight: 2024 Update* (in English and French)
- *Unregulated Production: Examining Craft-produced Weapons from a Global Perspective* (in English and French)
- *Assessing Technologies to Counter the Diversion of Small Arms and Light Weapons**
- *Understanding Civilian Harm from the Indirect or Reverberating Effects of the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas: Strengthening Data Collection to Implement the Political Declaration*
- *Exploring the Acquisition and Management of Arms among Volunteer Security Outfits in Nigeria's Borno State*
- Small arms control and prevention: Back together again or a flash in the pan? (commentary)
- *Armed and Dangerous? A Brief Overview of Uncrewed Aerial Systems – Risks, Impacts and Avenues for Action**
- Addressing the threats posed by improvised explosive devices in West Africa: Towards a regional approach (commentary)

Journal and working papers

- "Explosive weapons and the 2030 Agenda: How the use of explosive weapons in populated areas undermines sustainable development", *Fragments*, vol. 1, No. 2
- "Strengthening the collection of data on the indirect or reverberating effects of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas", working paper, April
- "The growing and multifaceted global threat of privately made and other non-industrial small arms and light weapons", June

Gender and disarmament

Publications

- *From the Margins to the Mainstream: Advancing Intersectional Gender Analysis of Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*
- *How do Gender and Diversity Relate to Mine Action?*
- *La question des armes dans les violences sexuelles liées aux conflits : Boîte à outils pour la maîtrise des armements et le désarmement* (in French)
- *Gendered Impacts of the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas* (factsheet)
- Only our conscious, collective action can counteract the gender biases and inequalities baked into artificial intelligence* (commentary)
- *Política exterior, género, desarme nuclear y ambiente: perspectivas desde el Sur* (in Spanish)
- Advancing gender equality: progress in arms control and disarmament (commentary)

- *Gender and Disarmament Resource Pack*
- *Gender and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems** (factsheet)
- Five steps towards gender-responsive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (commentary)
- *Gender and Ionizing Radiation: Towards a New Research Agenda Addressing Disproportionate Harm*

Journal and working papers

- "From research to policy: prospects for gender-transformative small arms control", working paper
- "Taking stock of gender, diversity and inclusion in the Convention on Cluster Munitions: a mid-point review of the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan" (CCM/MSP/2024/WP.2)

Security and technology

Publications

- *International Security in 2045: Exploring Futures for Peace, Security and Disarmament* (in English and Spanish)
- *International Security in 2045: The Methodology Behind the Future Scenarios*
- *Enabling Technologies and International Security: A Compendium (2023 Edition)* (in Chinese and English)
- *A Compendium of Good Practices: Developing a National Position on the Interpretation of International Law and State Use of ICT* (in Arabic, English, French and Spanish)
- *Accelerating ICT Security Capacity-Building: Takeaways from the Global Roundtable on ICT Security Capacity-Building*
- *Assessing Technologies to Counter the Diversion of Small Arms and Light Weapons**
- *Unlocking the UNIDIR Cyber Policy Portal: A Comprehensive User Guide*
- *Confidence-Building Measures for Artificial Intelligence: A Multilateral Perspective*
- Gender and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems* (factsheet)
- *The Global Kaleidoscope of Military AI Governance: Decoding the 2024 Regional Consultations on Responsible AI in the Military Domain*
- *Governance of Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain: A Multi-Stakeholder Perspective on Priority Areas*
- *Draft Guidelines for the Development of a National Strategy on AI in Security and Defence*
- *Armed and Dangerous? A Brief Overview of Uncrewed Aerial Systems – Risks, Impacts and Avenues for Action**
- *Large Language Models and International Security* (primer)
- *Internet Fragmentation and Cybersecurity* (primer) (in English and Spanish)
- *Quantum Technology, Peace and Security* (primer) (in Chinese and English)
- *Towards a Regular Institutional Dialogue on International ICT Security: Review of Current Proposals and Considerations for Effective Dialogue*
- *Exploring the AI-ICT Security Nexus*
- *Governance Implications of Synthetic Data in the Context of International Security* (in Chinese and English)
- *Cloud Computing and International Security: Risks, Opportunities and Governance Challenges* (in Chinese and English; research note in French and Spanish)
- *Cloud Computing Governance: Research Brief*
- *Enabling Technologies and International Security: A Compendium, 2024 Edition* (in Chinese and English)
- 2024 innovations dialogue: quantum technologies and their implications for international peace and security

Journal and working group papers

- "Proposal for standard classification of drone by weight under 150kg for standardization of dual-use drones", *Journal of Defense Quality Society (JDQS)*, vol. 6, No. 1
- "Optimal design of dual-use quad-copter drone for MTOW-based standard platform using CLOUDS program", *Journal of the Korean Society for Aeronautical and Space Sciences*, vol. 52, No. 3

Other publications

- Scenario 29: Cyber operations against water and water infrastructure (cyber law toolkit)
- "Technology, economy and war: the disruptive force of AI", in *Research Handbook on Warfare and Artificial Intelligence*
- Background paper for the ASEAN Norms Implementation Checklist [not for publication]
- "Passive ambitions, active limitations: defence AI in India", in *The Very Long Game: 25 Case Studies on the Global State of Defense AI*

- Summary report on the UNIDIR–Colombia workshop on norms, international law and the State use of ICTs [not for publication]
- ASEAN Norms Implementation Checklist [not for publication]
- *Bytes and Battles: Inclusion of Data Governance in Responsible Military AI*, Paper No. 308

Weapons of mass destruction

Publications

- *Assessing the SecBio Platform Proposal for the Biological Weapons Convention* (in English and French)
- *Revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament: Workshop Report* (in English and French)
- *Taking Stock of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty Process*
- *2023 Biorisks, Biosecurity and Biological Disarmament Conference Report*
- *Voluntary Transparency Initiatives: The Case of Peer Review Exercises in the Context of the BWC*
- *The Focus and Function of BWC Verification*
- *Possible Models of BWC Verification*

Journal and working group papers

- "How the Biological Weapons Convention could verify treaty compliance", *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, March
- "Preserving the nuclear test ban after Russia revoked its CTBT ratification", *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, March
- *CBW Magazine*, vol. 17, No. 2
- "UNSCR 1540 lessons learned from the 'tending' of the biological weapons regime", UNICRI 1540 Compass, April
- "What will be the impact of AI on the bioweapons treaty?", *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, November

Other publications

- "Strengthening global biosecurity and biosafety efforts: the role of the BWC National Implementation Database in informing and guiding national policies", National University of Singapore - Centre for International Law, April
- "Restoring Russian-U.S. arms control", *Arms Control Today*, May
- "Quieting the nuclear rattle: responding to Russia's tactical nuclear weapons exercises", European Leadership Network, May
- "The role of open source data and methods in verifying compliance with weapons of mass destruction agreements", in *Open Source Investigations in the Age of Google*
- *The Biological Weapons Convention: Challenges and Opportunities*, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Policy Brief No.15
- "Global stocks and production of fissile materials, 2023", in *SIPRI Yearbook 2024*
- "The role and limits of transparency measures in disincentivising biological weapons", in *Disincentivizing Bioweapons: Theory and Policy Approaches*
- Demonstrative verification in arms control and disarmament (conference paper; not published)

Space security

Publications

- *A Lexicon for Outer Space Security* (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)
- *OEWG on Reducing Space Threats: Recap Report*
- Space security and sustainability: Why is it essential for small island nations? (commentary)
- Verification for outer space security (GE-PAROS/2024/WP.9)
- *Space Security and Sustainability: Why Is It Essential for Small Island Nations?*
- *Space Security Legal Primer 1 – Outer Space & Use of Force*

Other publications

- Australia's growing space agency amid a renewed push to the stars
- "Existing international governance, current multilateral efforts and contemporary space security developments and trends", in *Space: Exploring NATO's Final Frontier*
- Bringing the space–nuclear nexus into multilateral discussions (commentary)

Middle East weapons of mass destruction-free zone

Publications

- *Understanding the Middle East WMD-Free Zone Conference*

Journal and working group papers

- "Chemical weapons investigation mechanisms in Syria: standards of proof and methods of work", *Z Friedens und Konflforsch*, October
- "A balanced approach to addressing nuclear risks in the Middle East while preserving the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons", *Peace Review*, April

Managing exits from armed conflict

Publications

- *Observations from Action Research and Programming with Conflict-affected Populations*
- *Disengaging from Armed Groups and Desisting from Conflict Activities: Drawing Lessons Learned from Criminology*, Findings Report 34
- *Shadow Crossings: Informal Returnees from Al Hol*, Findings Report 35
- *Prospects for Dialogue and Negotiation to Address the Conflict in the Lake Chad Basin*
- *Banditry Violence in Nigeria's North West: Insights from Affected Communities*, Findings Report 36
- *Child Recruitment and Exits from Armed Groups: Evidence from the Lake Chad Basin to Inform the UNSC CAAC Debate*
- *In Search of a Middle East and North Africa Peace System*
- *Climate Change Is Driving People into Armed Groups: Five Takeaways*
- *From Al Hol to Hope: Navigating Return and Reintegration Challenges*, Findings Report 37
- *Boko Haram: Mapping an Evolving Armed Constellation*
- *Taking Peace into Our Own Hands: Colombian Feminists Use Local Politics to Advance their Agenda for Peace* (in English and Spanish)
- *Shifting the Focus: Insights from Conflict-affected Children and Youth on Peacebuilding and Recovery*
- *Picturing Conflict: Child Perspectives from Their Time with Boko Haram and Their Exit Journeys*
- *Sexual Violence and the Struggle for Justice: the Involvement of Indigenous Nasa Survivors in Armed Groups in Northern Cauca*, Findings Report 38
- *Survival and Struggle: The Experience of Women and Girls with and after Boko Haram*, Findings Report 39
- *Trust Matters: Community Perceptions Towards Aid Organizations in the North East of Nigeria*, Findings Report 40
- *The Current Needs of Former Boko Haram Associates and Their Communities of Return*
- *Engagement with Boko Haram* (embargoed report, disseminated privately)
- *Banditry in Nigeria's North West: Key Findings*
- *Navigating Humanitarian Dilemmas: Decontextualized Version* (embargoed report)
- *Navigating Humanitarian Dilemmas: Contextualized Version* (embargoed report)

Others

- *UNIDIR Roundup and Outlook 2024*
- "Treaties and tools: architecture of arms control on shaky grounds", in *The Atlas of Disarmament* (in English and German)
- Only our conscious, collective action can counteract the gender biases and inequalities baked into artificial intelligence* (commentary)
- What's next for youth engagement in disarmament? (commentary)
- Effective, inclusive participation can offer a path out of paralysis for multilateral disarmament (commentary)
- *Securing the Seas: A Comprehensive Assessment of Global Maritime Security*

EVENTS HELD ON THE MARGINS of the 2024 session of the FIRST COMMITTEE

7 October	Responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military domain (organized by the Republic of Korea)
9 October	1540 Committee - Open briefing for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations (part 1) (organized by 1540 Committee)
	Expert panel on nuclear war impacts and the role of the scientific community (organized by Ireland, New Zealand, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and Princeton University)
	The 2024 UN debate on "International cooperation on peaceful uses": Clarifying the role and purpose of export controls (organized by the European Union and SIPRI)
	Towards a secure world for all: Marking 20 years of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and Ecuador)
10 October	1540 Committee - Open briefing for Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations (part 2) (organized by 1540 Committee)
	Approaching the AI-nuclear nexus (organized by Germany and SIPRI)
	Introducing the Global Partnership's flagship initiative on countering WMD disinformation (organized by Canada and King's College London)
	Strengthening UNSCR 1540 implementation: The critical role of regional organizations (organized by OAS-CICTE and Ecuador)
14 October	Diversion and delivery: Unpacking emerging IED threats (organized by France, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the Mine Action Service of the United Nations)
	Nuclear risk reduction in the framework of "Creating an environment for nuclear disarmament (CEND)" (organized by Germany and Finland)
15 October	Escalation risks at the space-nuclear nexus (organized by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and SIPRI)
16 October	Autonomous weapons systems and the challenge of regulation (organized by Austria)
17 October	Voluntary information sharing on legal reviews of new weapons, means and methods of warfare (organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Science and Technology Unit)
18 October	Responsible AI for peace and security: Meeting the moment in tackling the risks presented by misuse of civilian AI (organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the European Union and SIPRI)
22 October	**Operationalizing the RevCon4 outcome on small arms and light weapons: Way forward for the OETEG** (organized by Costa Rica, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and Conflict Armament Research)
	The HCoC and space (organized by the European Union and Fondation pour la recherche stratégique)
23 October	**A declaration to prevent harm: Steps to strengthen the protection of civilians from use of explosive weapons in populated areas** (organized by Norway, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Ireland, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the International Network on Explosive Weapons)

- Challenges and opportunities posed by AI in international peace and security: A conversation with the UNIDIR women in AI Fellows (organized by UNIDIR and Germany)
- High-level briefing on building capacity to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists in Africa and Central Asia (organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre)
- What you(th) can do for disarmament: Exploration of youth champions for disarmament projects (organized by Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs)

24 October

- Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Fund (organized by the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat)
- The roundtable for AI, security and ethics: Forging global alignment through multistakeholder dialogue (organized by UNIDIR and Microsoft)

25 October

- Guidelines for the development of national strategies on AI in security and defence (organized by UNIDIR)
- The Arms Trade Treaty at 10 (organized by the United Kingdom, Australia and the Stimson Center)
- Weapons of mass destruction disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in an age of accelerated technological change (organized by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs)

28 October

- Harnessing regional opportunities for disarmament in Asia-Pacific: The role of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs' Regional Centre (UNRCPD) (organized by UNRCPD)

29 October

- Space security next steps: How to ensure continued success through complementarity and cooperation (organized by UNIDIR)
- Strengthening EU-Africa cooperation in space (organized by the European Union)
- The political declaration: Delivering concrete steps toward responsible military AI (organized by the United States)
- Transparency, accountability and strengthening the NPT review process: Why they matter (organized by Japan, Australia and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative)

30 October

- A gamble of our own choosing: Forecasting strategies to reduce nuclear risks (organized by Austria, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Open Nuclear Network and the Forecasting Research Institute)

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The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook online:
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